



# NSW DPI / Huon Yellowtail Kingfish Research Project - Stakeholder Update

December 2017

The fourth batch of Yellowtail Kingfish produced at Port Stephens Fisheries Institute was transferred by helicopter to the Marine Aquaculture Research Lease over the weekend of the 9-10<sup>th</sup> of December 2017.

Harvesting trials of the first batch of Yellowtail Kingfish are expected to take place in early 2018. A specially designed unit, enclosed in a shipping container, will be used to grade, stun and kill fish. Any waste water arising from this operation will be retained in this unit, stored on board, and returned to land for disposal. This will meet the stringent operating conditions placed on activities. Huon Aquaculture has discussed sales with a local seafood distributor to ensure fresh Yellowtail Kingfish is available to the community.

The Department of Planning and Environment has approved the first Annual Environmental Management Report for operations at the Research Lease. Copies of the report will also be provided to NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and the Commonwealth.

DPI and Huon have produced an advisory flyer for tourist operators, tackle stores and service stations in the lead up to Christmas to highlight operations at the Research Lease and provide navigation advice to boaters and fishers who may use the area.

Early in December a single black grid buoy from the Research Lease broke away. RMS and Marine Parks were notified and an investigation is underway to determine cause and what corrective actions need to be undertaken. The buoy was located by Water Police washed up near Fingal Spit and Huon Aquaculture recovered the buoy the following morning. Huon plans to put GPS trackers on buoys/sea pens to monitor locations in case of breakaway.

Scott Hansen Director General of DPI, and the DPI Executive visited the Research Lease 21 November 2017 to see the sea pens first hand and get an update on operations from DPI scientists and Huon Aquaculture staff.

DPI was invited to an international conference in Tasmania to review current trends in marine farming, Biosecurity matters and environmental monitoring programs. Initiated by Huon Aquaculture, the conference sought to address recent concerns raised in Tasmania and to establish world's best practice frameworks for environmental protection. This work will contribute to DPI's efforts to develop policy for sustainable aquaculture in NSW.

Fifty five members of Port Stephens Marine Rescue visited Port Stephens Fisheries Institute for a series of presentations of the work undertaken on-site and tour the facility. Huon Aquaculture is working with Marine Rescue to upgrade communication links.

Huon Aquaculture's new fast vessel the Catalina has arrived from Tasmania and is moored in the Nelson Bay marina.

Huon Aquaculture is working with TAFE, Tomaree High School and the Worimi Knowledgeholders Group to develop a Certificate III Aquaculture course. This will provide school and Worimi students with background to the industry, WHS and stock handling knowledge. On-farm work placement will also be offered to students.

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The emergency contact number for the Research Lease is **1300 920 987**, to be used for any incident involving the sea pens.

### Upcoming events:

- Uploading MARL Annual Environmental Management Report to the web
- Harvesting Yellowtail Kingfish to market early 2018

### More information

<https://www.huonaqua.com.au/about/portstephens/>

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aquaculture/starting-up/finfish-aquaculture-lease-modification-application> or contact [aquaculture.administration@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aquaculture.administration@dpi.nsw.gov.au)



Fingerlings airlifted to the Research Lease

Fingerlings schooling together after release



*Season's greetings to you from all at DPI and Huon*

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