



NSW DPI / Huon Yellowtail Kingfish Research Project - Stakeholder Update

October 2018

On Friday 2 November, Huon Aquaculture will be relocating three sea pens from Kooragang Island in Newcastle Harbour to the working waterfront precinct at Oyster Cove at the back of Port Stephens. RMS and Marine Rescue have been notified of the towage and a permit was obtained from Port Stephens-Great Lakes Marine Park for the activity. The two remaining sea pens in Newcastle may be also relocated to Oyster Cove in a few weeks depending upon tides.

NSW DPI and Huon Aquaculture have completed the second Annual Environmental Management Report for the research trial in Providence Bay. The report details the performance of the Marine Aquaculture Research Lease during the second year of operations and complies with a requirement to submit the report to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and the Commonwealth Department of Planning and Environment. It also summarises the research undertaken at Port Stephens Fisheries Institute.

The report highlights compliance with consent conditions and where standards were exceeded. The report also identifies one non-compliance incident relating to sea pen maintenance which led to fish escapement in January and a subsequent \$15,000 fine issued to Huon Aquaculture. Once approved by the Compliance Branch of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment the report will be loaded to the web. This will join the first year's report, see https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/795645/MARL-Annual-Report-2017-pdf.pdf

At Port Stephens Fisheries Institute a number of FRDC supported hatchery, indoor nursery, and outdoor nursery experiments have been successfully completed. A range of options for on-growing advanced juvenile Yellowtail Kingfish including trialling recirculating aquaculture tanks and polyhouse-covered outdoor ponds. A University of NSW student Honours project has provided information about the gut microbial community of Yellowtail Kingfish and how it changes with different life stages provides valuable knowledge to inform hatchery practices.

Three years of research has provided valuable advances in hatchery and nursery technology and contributed to the successful stocking of Yellowtail Kingfish to Botany Bay and Lake Macquarie as part of the Departmental stock enhancement program for recreational fishers.

Two long-term DAWR* supported Yellowtail Kingfish broodstock feeding trials have been completed. The aim of the trial was to maximise the number of quality of eggs produced by the females by changing diet and feeding regimes. Pond experiments underway at the Fisheries Institute are evaluating the performance of Yellowtail Kingfish fed diets that completely replace wild-captured fishmeal with by-products from fish processing. The fish have grown extremely well with results to be determined December 2018.

In response to a number of questions raised about the Yellowtail Kingfish project, NSW DPI and Huon Aquaculture have prepared a *Frequently Asked Questions* advisory document. This can be found at https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/820315/OUT18-9408-MARL-FAQs-June-2018.pdf



Image of three sea pens under towage



Yellowtail Kingfish diet research trial conducted at Port Stephens Fisheries Institute

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

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

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