



NSW DPI / Huon Yellowtail Kingfish Research Project - Stakeholder Update

September 2017

Yellowtail Kingfish from the Marine Aquaculture Research Lease have featured on the menu during the month of *Love Seafood Love Port Stephens* at Little Nels, Little Beach Boathouse, the Greenhouse Eatery and at Broughtons for the event's Gala Dinner. Huon donated 250 kg of product to the events. Jason Clark, Huon's Operation Manager, also supported the Oyster Day at D'Albora Marina coming in a credible second in the Amateur/Celebrity oyster opening competition.

The latest round of environmental monitoring data and video transects is located at <https://www.huonaqua.com.au/about/portstephens/>

The shark monitoring station located on sea pen number one was retrieved and downloaded. The data highlights that shark visitation is sporadic with no real evidence of changes in behaviour with most "just passing through".

Two new lift buckets have been manufactured locally to transfer juvenile fish by helicopter to the Research Lease.

There has been further delay to locate additional sea pens on the Research Lease after mechanical issues were identified on the work boat Omaha. This boat has been replaced by the new Huon 'Delilah'. Delilah has been working on grid maintenance. Efforts are now underway to bring the sea pens up from Newcastle and locate them on the Research Lease as quickly as possible to take the rapidly growing fingerlings from Port Stephens Fisheries Institute.

It was previously reported that a shackle had failed on the mooring grid of the Research Lease. Huon has reconfigured the design of the grid to reduce hardware (shackles) where possible. Further improvements will be made on subsequent mooring systems.

New cardinal markers will be installed on the lease boundaries of the Research Lease in the coming weeks. This followed discussion with RMS after issues were identified with the previous markers vertical alignment being impacted by strong currents and swell.

Huon will deploy an OEH approved observer during lease maintenance and installation of sea pens to manage marine fauna interaction.

NSW DPI and Huon attended a meeting of the Hawks Nest Tea Gardens Progress Association to update members on the progress of the research trial. The meeting was well attended with many well considered questions raised. A further update will take place in six months.

As part of the consent conditions issued by the Department of Planning and Environment a report will be prepared to describe operations in the last 12 months. This will report on the various operational management plans and consider whether environmental targets and strategies have been met. The report will be made available on the web once approved.

Researchers, students and Huon representatives linked to the Yellowtail Kingfish nutrition project at Port Stephens Fisheries Institute attended a project meeting at South Australia's West Beach research facility in August. This meeting discussed the results of research conducted in NSW and South Australia.

Huon has provided the Karuah Landcare Group with a Helping Hand Community Grant to assist in their project 'Regenerating Karuah Wetland Centre'.

Kurose Suisan, a Yellowtail Kingfish farming company in South East Japan, recently visited Port Stephens to view operations. The visit allowed Huon to compare production techniques and DPI to discuss the latest in research and breeding technology.

Huon will be seeking 2-3 casual hands when harvesting starts later this year.

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

Upcoming events:

- Deploying sea pens September 2017
- Stocking fingerlings by helicopter to one sea pen September 2017
- Research Lease tour for international Seafood Directions conference delegates

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



Sea pens on a calm day



Jason Clark with local dignitaries



Huon's workboat Delilah in Nelson Bay



Fresh Yellowtail Kingfish from the Research Lease



Huon's new helicopter lift buckets

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