



TIMELINE OF MACQUARIE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT

	What happened?	What it means
2011	Salmon production is around 9,000 tonnes	<p>Approval for expansion of salmon farming from around 9,000 tonnes to 29,500 tonnes BUT to make sure there are no adverse impacts on the WHA or an endangered fish, the Federal Environment Minister caps production at 15,500tonnes until a review is undertaken in 2013 that shows it is safe to continue expansion.</p>
May 2012	Amendment to the Macquarie Harbour Marine Farming Development Plan (MFDP) approved by Tasmanian Minister – amendment authorised expansion of salmon farming from 564ha to 926ha lease area.	
October 2012	Federal Minister decides approval not required under <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> , provided expansion complies with the MFDP and targeted management responses are implemented, in accordance with conditions imposed, where impacts exceed set thresholds. Interim biomass cap set at 15,490t (52.5% of the 29,500t maximum modelled), which was intended to operate until a review of sustainable limits in 2013.	
February 2014	Tasmanian Salmonid Growers Association (TSGA) establishes the Macquarie Harbour Dissolved Oxygen working Group (MHDWOG) in response to declining trends in dissolved oxygen. The dissolved oxygen downward trend was discovered in late 2013 while the TSGA were undertaking a review of limits to satisfy the conditions of the Federal Minister’s decision and trigger removal of the production cap.	<p>Huon and Petuna are in favour of maintaining the production cap of 15,500 tonnes in the Harbour until more is known about the downward trend in dissolved oxygen. Tassal reveal they have stocked well above their proportion of the total production cap.</p>
September 2014	Tassal reveal at a MHDWOG meeting that they have increased production well in excess of the production cap. In response, Huon (and Petuna) write to Premier and Deputy Premier and DPIPWE that the biomass cap of 15,490 tonnes should be maintained until more scientific information available to demonstrate increased biomass was sustainable.	



TIMELINE OF MACQUARIE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT

	What happened?	What it means
October 2014	<p>Dissolved Oxygen Working Group notes declining DO and that further decreases may have a direct impact on both the ecology of the harbour and aquaculture production. Recommends "more detailed quantitative carbon/nitrogen/oxygen budget for Macquarie Harbour" and finds that "The future conditions cannot be accurately predicted at this stage and it is conceivable that the harbor will move to a new equilibrium based on events over the last 5 years.</p> <p>Tasmanian Government advised the Federal Government that a review has been undertaken and that the Federally set biomass cap has now lapsed.</p> <p>Tasmanian Government request information from all 3 salmon farming companies to support a review of factors important to the sustainability of salmon farming in MH - the information provided becomes the "MH Status Report"</p>	<p>Tasmanian Government remove the biomass limit without any scientific justification and despite the obvious declining trend in DO levels and Huon and Petuna's objection to the removal of the cap and increasing production. There is effectively no biomass cap from September 2014 to April 2015.</p>
January 2015	<p>IMAS Report indicates Tassal Lease 266 non-compliant for <i>Dorvilleid</i> worms extending into WHA</p> <p>Huon writes to Tasmanian Government stating "to allow the continued increase in biomass on this lease risks anaerobic sediments across a wide area of the Harbour seafloor The potential negative impact this issue has for industry and Government is enormous." Huon also stated that "It is known that the presence of numerous <i>Dorvilleid</i> worms will progress to anaerobic conditions and <i>Beggiatoa</i> mats if remediation is not put in place. To ignore such a wide area of <i>Dorvilleid</i> worm proliferation without immediate remediation would seem to run a risk of wide-scale progression to anaerobic sediments.</p>	<p>Tassal lease 266 non-compliant (dorvilleid worms) and impact extends into WHA</p> <p>Huon requests Tasmanian Government direct Tassal to de-stock Lease 266</p>



TIMELINE OF MACQUARIE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT

	What happened?	What it means
	Tasmanian Government writes to all 3 salmon companies that the presence of <i>Dorveillids</i> will be removed as a compliance species in MH pending research outcomes.	Tasmanian Government removes dorvilleid worms as a compliance indicator and Tassal's lease 266 lease becomes compliant as a result.
February 2015	<p>Macquarie Harbour Status Report indicates improved DO in bottom waters since September 2014, but overall decline.</p> <p>DPIPWE contract Cawthron Institute to undertake external review of MH monitoring program and related research including "MH Status Report"</p>	Research indicates ongoing trend in declining in DO levels
April 2015	Tasmanian Government draft determination flags increase in biomass cap from 15,500 tonnes to 20,020 tonnes without any scientific justification.	
May 2015	Wes Ford announced as new Tasmanian EPA Director following an extended period as General Manager of Water and Marine Resources, the division of DPIPWE responsible for the regulation of the salmon industry.	
August 2015	Cawthron Institute report released. Report confirms a harbour-wide decline in DO coincident with increase in fish biomass, and that there are signs of a biological system under stress. Notes that any further expansion should "proceed in a cautious manner".	Tasmanian Government commissioned "Cawthron Report" confirms decline in DO coincident with increase in biomass, and notes that any further expansion should "proceed in a cautious manner".
October 2015	Tasmanian Government makes final biomass determination (from draft determinations of April 2015 and September 2015) for each Company without providing a total biomass figure or scientific justification for the decision.	Tasmanian Government increases biomass cap from 15,500 tonnes to 20,020 tonnes without any scientific justification.
March 2016	Huron provides independent research reports and detailed submission that evidences deteriorating environmental conditions in the Harbour and associated fish health concerns in response to draft decision by Tasmanian Government to increase biomass in MH.	Huron requests Tasmanian Government to reduce biomass to at least 15,500 tonnes and possibly lower



TIMELINE OF MACQUARIE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT

	What happened?	What it means
April 2016	Macquarie Harbour Status Update report released	Tasmanian Government increases biomass from 20,020 to 21,500 without any scientific justification. Tonnage is disproportionately allocated to Tassal.
	DPIPWE announce proposed 21,500t biomass cap for 2016-2017 and disproportionately allocates tonnage to Tassal who receive 34t/ha and Huon receiving 20 t/ha and Petuna 18 t/ha	
June 2016	Tasmanian Government announces intention to amend salmon farming regulations to transfer environmental monitoring and enforcement responsibilities to the EPA Director Wes Ford.	EPA Director takes on responsibility for environmental regulation of salmon farming including setting biomass limits and how they are apportioned
1 July 2016	EPA Director takes on responsibility for environmental regulation of salmon farming	
August 2016	Amendment to MFDP to allow EPA Director to set biomass cap , and apportion biomass between leaseholders.	
September 2016	First EPA Lease Boundary Compliance summary report released – shows non-compliance at 19 sites in relation to <i>Beggiatoa</i>	Macquarie Harbour environmental conditions show serious harbour-wide deterioration and Tassal Lease 266 found to be devoid of life. There are less than 11,000 tonnes of fish in the Harbour at the time
October 2016	All 3 salmon companies and EPA briefed on Draft IMAS findings for Macquarie Harbour that show serious impacts on seabed health and dissolved oxygen levels – zero dissolved oxygen below 20m depth across most of the Harbour.	
November 2016	EPA Director releases Draft determination , proposing 14,000t biomass cap	EPA Director sets biomass limit of 14,000 tonnes despite serious environmental degradation. Huon responds by launching legal proceedings in the Supreme Court and Federal Court challenging management decisions in Macquarie Harbour.
	Huon writes to Federal Environment Minister requesting intervention of Federal Government in Macquarie Harbour and application of a lower biomass.	
January 2017	Final determination released imposing a 14,000t biomass cap from 14 February 2017 – 30 April 2017 IMAS Technical Report and Lease Boundary Compliance Summary released to leaseholders. Reports show concerns re impacts on World Heritage area.	



TIMELINE OF MACQUARIE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT

	What happened?	What it means
	Tassal ordered to destock Lease 266 by 1 March 2017	Tassal ordered to de-stock lease 266
6 February 2017	Huon launch legal proceedings in the Supreme Court and Federal Court challenging management decisions in Macquarie Harbour.	Huon launch legal proceedings in the Supreme Court and Federal Court challenging management decisions in Macquarie Harbour.
	Federal Environment Department conducts "compliance monitoring inspection" against Federal Environment Minister's Decision	Federal Environment Department conducts "compliance monitoring inspection" against Federal Environment Minister's Decision
17 February 2017	Minister announces details of proposed changes to regulation, and plans to develop Sustainable Salmon Industry Growth Plan. The Plan is expected to provide support for oceanic, rather than estuarine, expansion.	
22 February 2017	Tassal and Petuna join Supreme and Federal Court proceedings in support of EPA Director.	Tassal and Petuna join legal proceedings in support of EPA Director to protect interests
24 February 2017	Tassal granted extension to 15 April 2017 to destock Franklin lease (266)	Tassal completes de-stocking of lease 266 after it is given 14 weeks to do it and then publicly announces the lease is recovering
10 April 2017	Tassal completes de-stocking of Franklin lease (site 266)	
24 April 2017	Tassal announces results showing recovery at Franklin lease and calls for greater transparency and an "industry-funded watchdog" to regulate salmon farming. Results submitted to EPA, but not publicly released . Several days later Tassal releases an information sheet publicly.	
27 April 2017	Tassal reveals 14,000t biomass cap will exceeded until December 2017, based on volume of fish already in the water in Macquarie Harbour. Tassal say they are working with the EPA on "mitigation measures", including dredging underneath pens.	Tassal announces it will exceed proposed biomass cap of 14,000 tonnes
May 2017	Macquarie Harbour TWWHA Status Report released . Report confirms deterioration in in-fauna abundance and number of species at a range of monitoring sites within the TWWHA area (39, 42 and 43), and that industry monitoring at the Franklin lease indicated <i>Beggiatoa</i> has contracted to well outside of the TWWHA boundary.	Research reports show sediments in Macquarie Harbour still significantly impacted and continues into world heritage area



TIMELINE OF MACQUARIE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT

	What happened?	What it means
3 May 2017	<p>Tassal reveal plans to undertake a trial of dredging technology to dredge waste at lease 266 – draft proposal submitted to EPA</p> <p>Huron Aquaculture announce intention to seek injunction to prevent trial, raising concern re re-suspension of nutrients</p> <p>EPA Director announces that trial has not been approved, will require Environmental Effects Report and assessment by the EPA Board.</p>	<p>Tassal announces plan to dredge Macquarie Harbour under pens which is quickly banned by the EPA after Huron launches further legal action</p>
5 May 2017	<p>EPA Director releases draft determination reducing biomass cap to 12,000t from 1 June 2017 – 31 May 2018 (or 13t/ha). The decision follows an IMAS report showing the harbour is “under a level of stress that may not be sustainable in the long term”.</p> <p>The draft Determination allows companies “a supplementary biomass allocation” of 15t/ha (28t/ha in total), provided “approved waste collection system” implemented.</p> <p>Tassal will trial an experimental waste collection system, that must be approved for further use. If the system is not approved, Tassal will be required to remove fish in excess of its 13t/ha cap.</p> <p>The EPA Director also confirmed that the government intends to move from Harbour-wide management to lease-by-lease management.</p> <p>Macquarie Harbour Nutrient Review 2013-2016 released. Review shows “harbour wide increase in [dissolved reactive phosphorous] with the most significant elevation in DRP occurring in the bottom waters in both the Northern Harbour and WHA sites.”</p>	<p>EPA Director announces biomass could reach 16,000tonnes whilst announcing a 12,000 tonne cap. The decision makes a provision for Tassal to keep around 4,000 tonnes over the proposed cap by implementing an unproven "waste capture system"</p>
23 May 2017	<p>Huron Aquaculture’s submissions in response to draft determination raise strong concerns about overall cap (recommending 10,000t), likely ineffectiveness of waste collection systems, and the appropriateness of trialling unproven systems in an already compromised environment.</p>	<p>Huron recommends a biomass cap of 10,000 tonnes and objects to unproven waste capture trial taking place in compromised waterway</p>



TIMELINE OF MACQUARIE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT

	What happened?	What it means
31 May 2017	<p>EPA Director released final Determination confirming 2017-2018 biomass cap of 12,036t (13t/ha).</p> <p>As flagged in his draft determination, the Director will allow Tassal to exceed its allocated cap and stock up to 28t/hectare (about 4,000 extra tonnes), provided an “approved waste capture system” is installed. Tassal’s Franklin lease is to remain fallow (i.e. not stocked) until further notice. The determination does not include provision for a biomass allocation for Tassal's lease 266.</p> <p>Guidelines for approved waste capture systems released.</p> <p>Tassal receives approval to trial five waste collection units during June 2017, with all waste collected to be taken ashore and treated prior to disposal.</p> <p>EPA Director Statement of Reasons states “The long term monitoring of DO across Macquarie Harbour has revealed a steady decline in middle and bottom water oxygen concentrations since 2009 to the current extremely low levels”. This trend “is of significant concern” and “presents a significant risk to the ecology of the harbour”. “The environmental health of Macquarie Harbour, in particular levels of DO in the bottom waters, is likely to represent a crucial factor in the future well-being of the Maugean skate population”. “The significant increase in lease benthic non-compliance in the September 2016 survey and further increases in non-compliance in the January 2017 survey is indicative of deteriorating environmental conditions which will impact on the ecological processes of the benthic population of Macquarie Harbour”. “Early detection of <i>Beggiatoa</i> at the newly stocked lease 213 would appear to be indicative of impacts spreading from one lease to another.” “Macquarie Harbour is currently under stress”. “Two major fish mortalities have already occurred as a result of bottom low DO waters being pushed up into fish pens following recharges”. “Considering the strategic importance Macquarie</p>	<p>EPA confirms biomass will be set at 12,000 with provision for Tassal to carry a further 4,000 tonnes. Huon calls on Tassal to accelerate harvest rather than use risky and unproven waste capture trial.</p>



TIMELINE OF MACQUARIE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT

	What happened?	What it means
	<p>Harbour plays to all farmers, the whole Tasmanian industry would be at stake if farming was no longer sustainable in the Harbour. The flow on effects of serious environmental degradation to Macquarie Harbour including the WHA waters extends to other industries including tourism and would impact any commodity that relies on the 'Clean Green' Tasmanian Brand in its marketing</p> <p>Huon announce that they will continue their legal challenge to the proposed biomass cap, including the additional allowances, and called on the EPA to require Tassal to bring forward harvesting.</p>	
6 June 2017	<p>Huon lodges proceedings in the Federal Court seeking a declaration that Tassal is in breach of the biomass limit announced by EPA Director Wes Ford on 31 May 2017</p> <p>The EPA Director re-issues Tassal's biomass determination and indicated that it had approved a trial for a waste capture system. Tassal's re-issued determination now includes a biomass allocation of 1,560 tonnes for its lease 266 which is not currently approved for stocking.</p> <p>The re-issued determination took Tassal's total biomass from 2,067 tonnes (or 13 tonnes/ha) to around 3,627 tonnes to be farmed across Tassal's remaining farmable leases 214 and 219(at 22 tonnes/ha) in Macquarie Harbour.</p> <p>At the same time Tassal's determination was re-issued, the EPA Director also announced that it had approved a "waste capture trial" that granted Tassal a further biomass allocation which equates to a further 4,200 tonnes taking Tassal's total allowable biomass to around 7,840 tonnes.</p> <p>This equates to a potential stocking density of up to 50 tonnes/ha. Both</p>	<p>Only hours after Huon commence legal proceedings to declare Tassal in breach of biomass limits, EPA Director re-issues Tassal's biomass determination and provides approval for a trial which triggers the additional biomass limit for Tassal.</p>



TIMELINE OF MACQUARIE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT

	What happened?	What it means
	Huon and Petuna are required to farm their leases in Macquarie Harbour to a stocking density of 13 tonnes/ha.	
14 June 2017	Huon applies to Federal Court to join EPA Director to proceedings on the basis that the re-determination and trial approval were unreasonable decisions.	Huon applies to Federal Court to join EPA Director to proceedings on the basis that the re-determination and trial approval were unreasonable decisions.