



Open letter to Huon customers and wholesalers.

As a valued Huon customer, you would know that Huon is committed to transparency and to proactively provide information that may assist you in your purchasing decisions, as well as, allowing you to make informed comments to your customers regarding our salmon and the way we farm.

Specifically, this letter provides information regarding:

- Genetically modified stock;
- Transgenic (GM) plant raw material in the feed;
- Hormone usage; and
- Medications used in production in freshwater and marine sites;

The information below is set out in a question and answer format and I encourage you to have it readily available to provide to your customers if needed.

Q. Is Huon salmon bred from genetically modified (GM) stock or genetically modified by the company?

No. Huon salmon are not genetically modified or engineered. Our salmon are bred here in Tasmania, with broodstock carefully selected to ensure the best health outcomes for the fish that are put to sea.

Q. Does the feed Huon uses to grow salmon contain transgenic (GM) raw materials or growth hormones?

No. Our feed does not contain ingredients of genetically modified (transgenic) origin and we never feed our fish growth hormones or growth promoters. Our feeds do contain Astaxanthin, a powerful antioxidant that salmon need for healthy muscle growth and egg production and which also provides the salmon the signature orange hue to the flesh. Huon uses naturally derived Astaxanthin produced by bacterial culture.



What we feed our fish and how we feed them has a direct impact on their health and wellbeing. Our fish food needs to provide them enough energy to live and thrive and must also supply all the nutrients (proteins, fats, vitamins and minerals) to grow. We know exactly what our fish have been fed, which means that when you purchase Huon Aquaculture salmon you know it has been grown on safe, sustainable and traceable feeds.

Q. What, if any, medications are used by Huon in farming salmon, both at hatcheries and at marine farm sites?

Huon Aquaculture aims to minimise the use of medicinal products however, in some circumstances, treatment is prescribed by a qualified Veterinarian to maintain animal welfare. Antibiotic use is only in response to diagnosed bacterial infections and the choice of antibiotic is based on antibiotic sensitivity tests. We will never use antibiotics on a prophylactic basis or as growth promoters.

In FY16, Huon treated 1 sea pen of salmon, equating to an antibiotic use of 0.16 grams per tonne of salmon. In FY16, only 0.27 grams of antibiotic per tonne of salmon were used across all Huon Freshwater sites. For your information, this level of antibiotic use is extremely low and affirms our proactive approach to fish health management.

Although the use of medication is very minimal, to ensure that you are aware of the products that may be used to treat Huon's fish, please find the updated list of therapeutants in Table 1 that are available for use during the lifecycle of our fish.



Table 1. Therapeutants available for use by Huon Aquaculture

Product	Type	Purpose	Withdrawal Period	Permit/Prescription Details
Oxytetracycline	Antibiotic	Treat bacterial infections	1000 degree days (domestic) 1600 degree days (export)	APVMA permit 82375
Trimethoprim	Antibiotic	Treat bacterial infections	1000 degree days (domestic) 1600 degree days (export)	Veterinary prescription off-label
Chloramine-T	Organic chloramine	Treat bacterial, parasitic, or fungal gill/skin infections	N/A – for hatchery use only	Veterinary prescription off-label
Sodium Chloride	Salt	Treat bacterial, parasitic, or fungal gill/skin infections	N/A	N/A
Formalin	Aldehyde	Treat fungal skin and gill infections	N/A – for hatchery use only	APVMA permit 14489

Antibiotic Residues

Huon have strict procedures in place to ensure that fish cannot be harvested prior to their antibiotic history being confirmed and the prescribed withdrawal period exceeded. This ensures that all Huon products are free from residues prior to processing. Huon Aquaculture is also part of the National Residue Survey (NRS) which is an independent monitoring programme designed to demonstrate food safety in Australian agriculture and thereby facilitate access to domestic and export markets.



The NRS aims to:

- provide an estimate of the occurrence of residues in animal products;
- confirm (or otherwise) that residues in products are below set limits; and
- alert responsible government authorities and industry if, limits are exceeded, so that corrective action can be taken.

This survey is conducted annually and results are publically available on the NRS website:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/food/nrs/nrs-results-publications>

Since the beginning of the NRS testing program, there have never been any antibiotic residues detected in Huon Aquaculture products.