



# Media Release

**Issued: 29 July 2018**

## **HUON NAMED AS AUSTRALIA'S FIRST RSPCA APPROVED FARMED SALMON**

In an Australian first, Huon Aquaculture is the first seafood producer to join the RSPCA's Approved Farming Scheme after satisfying the rigorous animal welfare standards they set.

Huon Aquaculture Executive Director Frances Bender said, "Fish welfare has always been essential to every aspect of what we do. That's why, after a lot of extremely hard work by all of our people and as Australia's first RSPCA Approved salmon farmer, we are proud to be leading the way in farming salmon safely, sustainably and with a strong focus on welfare.

"We've never wanted to be the biggest salmon farmers; we want to be the best. Being able to supply Australia's only range of RSPCA Approved Salmon means that consumers that care and want the best for themselves and their families can now do that with confidence by choosing Huon.

"Achieving this accreditation hasn't happened overnight—we have worked closely with the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme over many years to meet their high standards and it is something that everyone working for Huon has been instrumental in achieving," said Mrs Bender.

RSPCA Australia CEO Heather Neil congratulated Huon for their hard work and dedication gaining RSPCA Approval.

"With a growing number of Australians including fish in their diets, it's important that caring consumers have the opportunity to choose a product that has been raised to a high standard of animal welfare – Huon have recognised this and are leading the way in offering Australians a humanely farmed salmon product," said Heather.

Achieving this accreditation will enable consumers to purchase salmon that has been grown with a strong focus on animal welfare.

"Huon's participation in the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme will give customers looking for an animal welfare friendly salmon product a good choice. It's a good outcome for millions of fish and consumers wanting to make a more humane choice," said Heather.

All fish grown in Tasmania's south are RSPCA Approved however, salmon grown in Macquarie Harbour, Tasmania, are not currently part of the Approved Farming Scheme.

"It is no secret that we have concerns over the health of Macquarie Harbour, as does the RSPCA. When environmental conditions improve, the RSPCA will look at independent science and review this decision," said Mrs Bender.

"Our farming ethos has stood us in good stead for the last 32 years, and will for many more years to come," she concluded.

ENDS

Cont...



# Media Release

## Background:

- Huon Aquaculture was founded by Peter and Frances Bender in Tasmania in 1986
- The company produces salmon and Ocean Trout, the majority of which is consumed in Australia
- Huon produces approximately 24,000 tonnes of salmon annually
- Huon's farms will be subject to scheduled and unscheduled audits by the RSPCA, and harvest is monitored by CCTV
- Huon Aquaculture does not have an exclusive arrangement with the RSPCA, nor has the company purchased this accreditation.
- Huon has paid a licensing fee to participate in the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme. This fee covers the costs of RSPCA assessing Huon sites and operations against the Standards and now Huon has met the Standards, allows use of the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme logo. The RSPCA Approved logo will not appear on products sourced from fish farmed in Macquarie Harbour.
- Over the last two years the RSPCA has been assessing Huon sites and procedures against the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme – Farmed Atlantic Salmon Standards.
- More information regarding the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme and the RSPCA's farmed Atlantic salmon standards can be found here: [www.rspcaapproved.org.au](http://www.rspcaapproved.org.au)

Huon Aquaculture contact: Corporate Affairs Manager, Jane Gallichan 0400 159 664

[jgallichan@huonaqua.com.au](mailto:jgallichan@huonaqua.com.au)