

RSPCA Approved Huon Salmon FAQ



What is the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme?

The RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme is the RSPCA's farm assurance program dedicated to improving the welfare of as many farm animals as possible by working with farmers to provide an environment that better meets the animal's behavioural needs. Recently, animal welfare standards for farmed Atlantic salmon were added to the Scheme and focuses on meeting the fish's physical and behavioural needs.

The standards require that all persons managing fish are trained and competent in their required tasks; that handling of fish is carried out in a manner that is low stress; and that all husbandry and management practices limit any negative impacts on the fish.

The standards aim to ensure that fish be held in water of good quality and that farming practices aim to provide all fish with sufficient oxygen and feed; freedom from injury, stress, deformation or disease; the ability to exhibit normal swimming and schooling behaviour and to escape aggressive encounters.

The RSPCA standards also require that a farmed Atlantic salmon producer be compliant with a recognised, third-party audited certification program that promotes best environmental practice.

You can read more about the RSPCA's standards for farmed Atlantic salmon on the [RSPCA's Knowledgebase](#) and the standards are [publicly available here](#).

Why did Huon pursue RSPCA Approval?

We have pursued RSPCA Approval as we think that it reflects our commitment of placing fish health and welfare at the centre of our farming operations. It is this ethos that has stood us in good stead for the last 32 years and will for many more years to come.

By 2025, demand for animal protein is set to double which is why ethical, sustainable farming could not be more crucial. We need to farm the oceans in a way that protects wild stocks, preserves the environment and provides safe, healthy food for a growing global population.

Why is this accreditation important?

Short answer, because animal welfare is important.

Over the past several years as salmon consumption has increased, so has the desire for consumers to know more about the salmon that they are eating. This has been fantastic for Huon because it has allowed us to share our story with our consumers to enable them to make an informed choice and now with RSPCA Approval, animal welfare can be front-of-mind for consumers.

Why isn't salmon grown in Macquarie Harbour covered under the Scheme?

It is no secret that we have concerns over the health of Macquarie Harbour, as does the RSPCA.

RSPCA Australia is of the view that the current environmental conditions within the harbour present a high risk of poor welfare outcomes for the salmon farmed in this location. As a result, they have taken the decision not to allow farming of salmon in Macquarie Harbour as part of the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme.

When future independent evidence indicates a sufficient improvement in the water quality and general environmental conditions within Macquarie Harbour this decision will be reviewed

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Around 10 per cent of our overall production is in Macquarie Harbour and as a company, we have taken proactive steps to mitigate against these environmental conditions including installing oxygenation systems on our pens, reducing stocking density and bringing forward our harvest. **Huon salmon grown in Macquarie Harbour is not RSPCA Approved.**

Does Huon have exclusive rights to RSPCA accreditation?

Huon **does not** have exclusive rights to RSPCA accreditation. RSPCA Approval is open to all salmon farmers and they too can become RSPCA Approved providing that they meet the requirements of the Scheme.

Did Huon pay to get RSPCA accreditation?

No, RSPCA Approval is not a pay-for-play accreditation and as such, the only money that has changed hands was a licencing fee for Huon to be able to use the RSPCA Approved logo on our packaging. This Licencing fee covers the costs of ongoing audits, management and promotion of RSPCA Approval.

Is RSPCA accredited salmon a new thing globally?

No, RSPCA UK's program 'RSPCA Assured' has standards for farmed Atlantic salmon which is used by the majority of the Scottish salmon farming industry. You can read more about their standard here https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/farm/fish/whatarewedoing/-/articleName/FAD_AllAboutAnimalsFarmedFishWhatAreWeDoing

How will RSPCA Australia monitor the farms?

It is important that the RSPCA's high standards of animal welfare are maintained at all times, so just like every other farmer participating in the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme, our farms will be audited by the RSPCA at least twice a year and the farms will be subject to unannounced audits.

In addition to on-farm audits, harvest is recorded on CCTV and can be reviewed anytime at the request of the RSPCA.

Where can I find RSPCA Approved Huon salmon?

Where you usually buy Huon salmon—to begin with, the RSPCA Approved logo will be rolled out to whole salmon and fresh fillets with Value Added to follow in the coming months.

Use our online store locator to look for Huon and look for the RSPCA Approved logo to trust that the salmon you're buying is farmed humanely: www.huonaqua.com.au/enjoy/stores