



Q. What are you planning on doing in Norfolk Bay?

A. Huon Aquaculture has applied to the Marine Farming Branch to temporarily transport salmon from Storm Bay to Green Head, Norfolk Bay, so they can be safely harvested and ensure the highest biosecurity standards can be maintained.

If the permit is issued, this will be for a short term only. Huon does not ever intend to farm salmon permanently at Norfolk Bay. If the site ever does need using again it would be only if similar circumstances arose and it needed to be used for a harvest or isolation site in the future. With a second well boat arriving late next year, we are hopeful that we won't need to use Norfolk Bay for harvesting as we can then load up to four harvest days of fish at Storm Bay, when the weather is calm, and harvest direct into a biosecure shore facility rather than transferring the fish into open harvest pens that create a biosecurity risk.

Q. Why do you want to harvest fish at Norfolk Bay?

The proposed harvest fish will come from Storm Bay where they have been infected with POMV and since recovered. All clinical testing has come back negative for the virus however, there is a risk that some of the fish may carry the virus therefore, to maintain good biosecurity practices, Huon is looking for an alternative harvest site.

Having an alternative harvest site other than our existing one in the Huon River will mean that we can break the cycle of POMV from infecting the juvenile salmon that are stocked in the Huon River.

Q. Is this a steppingstone to farming in Norfolk Bay?

Huon has no intention of farming fish in Norfolk Bay. The permit applied for is for a short-term and if the site is to be used beyond this period, new permits will be required.

Q. Is there a risk to the wild fish stocks?

The available science indicates that POMV is transferred from wild pilchards to salmon with pilchards being the original source of the virus. It is likely that infection could also transmit from salmon to pilchards, but there is no evidence of POMV in other wild fish species as is commonly the case that infectious agents are very species specific.

Q. If the permit is issued, what will this involve?

If the permit is issued, fish will be transported to Norfolk Bay on board the Ronja Huon, our well-boat, and put into two on-site harvest pens. We would bring about a week to ten days' worth of harvest fish at a time so there won't be large volumes of fish ever in the harvest pens at Norfolk Bay. If the permit is issued, we have committed to only operate the Ronja Huon during daylight hours. At Norfolk Bay, we would not have any land-based infrastructure – fish will be harvested directly from the Captain Bill, a boat usually deployed in Strahan. Fish would be harvested on board between 4pm and 10pm, Sunday to Thursday before being transported over night to Hideaway Bay in the Channel.

The Captain Bill holds three tanker trucks, which will then drive the harvested fish directly to Huon's processing facility in Parramatta Creek. All blood water from the harvest operations is contained on the harvest vessel and disposed of appropriately.



Q. Will there be lights?

Yes, there will be lights used during harvest and on the Captain Bill as it travels to Hideaway Bay. All lights used during the harvest will be trained downwards so as not to impact local residents. We will also use minimal lights on the Captain Bill while it is in transit, maintaining only those that are necessary for staff safety and navigation. If any neighbour or waterway user wants to discuss this issue, Huon will work with them to reduce any impacts caused by lights.

Q. Will there be noise?

Some noise will be generated by both the Ronja Huon and the Captain Bill while in transit, however, both vessels are compliant with EPA regulations and we have committed to restricting transit times of the Ronja Huon to daylight hours wherever possible.

Harvesting times have been set between 4pm and 10pm unless under extraordinary circumstances – Sunday to Thursday. While there will be some noise associated with this activity, it will be minimal. We have had an independent party conduct noise testing on this activity and it is compliant with EPA regulations.

It is also important to note that harvesting at night is better for fish welfare. We are proud to have recently attained RSPCA accreditation and consider night-time harvesting an important part of maintaining excellent fish welfare standards.

Q. What will the impact be on the costal environment?

The occupied lease area is only one hectare and will comprise two harvest pens. The fish will be on reduced rations because they are about to be harvested. The fish will only be held at the site for a short amount of time and are harvested on an empty gut. Huon Aquaculture does not anticipate any adverse consequences to the seafloor given the relatively low biomass, reduced feed rations, high water flow and the short duration of stocking.

Q. What legislation are we complying with?

If our application is successful, we will be complying with an environmental licence from the EPA and a permit from the Marine Farming Branch.

Q. How will this affect boat users?

As this proposal is only for a one-hectare space (within the 10Ha permit/15Ha lease area), we do not anticipate that it will impact on boat users. We will be complying with all instructions from Marine and Safety Tasmania regarding lights and markers and a Notice to Mariners will be issued. We are engaging with cruising yacht clubs as well as local yacht clubs to discuss our plans and ask for their feedback.

Q. Will recreational fishers be impacted?

Given we are proposing to exit the site by the end of November, again, we only foresee a marginal overlap between peak fishing season and our permit. We are working with recreational fishers to ensure that our proposal does not impact heavily on existing popular fishing locations.