

# Media Release



Issued: 2 November 2018

## HUON COMMENTS ON NORFOLK BAY FLOTILLA

Huon respects the right of community members to express their views.

We also believe facts are an important aspect of any debate and have paid for advertising in Saturday's Mercury newspaper to outline the facts about our temporary farming operations in Norfolk Bay.

We have always indicated that our harvest operations in Norfolk Bay were a temporary measure to achieve industry-wide biosecurity farming outcomes.

This temporary harvest site has enabled Huon to ensure that we did not risk spreading Pilchard Orthomyxovirus (POMV) to juvenile salmon stocked by the industry across the Huon region. POMV is not a threat to native fish as the disease does not transfer to other fish.

Our approach was, and has always been, to ensure the highest biosecurity standards are developed and maintained across all our farming operations to ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of the industry.

Since early July, there has been no evidence of POMV in any populations in the Storm Bay region. All populations have been tested across 10 separate laboratory submissions and all results have confirmed negative POMV status.

As a result, we are now exiting Norfolk Bay earlier than first scheduled.

As responsible farmers, from a biosecurity perspective we can now confidently move the remaining fish to Hideaway Bay for harvest, as per our normal practice. This action has been approved by the Tasmanian Chief Veterinary Officer.

The final onsite harvest will take place early next week with the single remaining empty harvest pen removed by the end of the following week. Prior to removal, all inner nets will be removed in-situ and transported to on-land net cleaning facilities. High pressure washing of the predator nets, pen collars, feed bins and other infrastructure subject to biofouling will be undertaken in-situ. Residents in the area will see the first empty harvest pen towed from the area early next week once the cleaning is completed.

All remaining equipment will be removed by the end of November, which is one month earlier than our permit allows.

We will continue to engage with the community and key stakeholders in, and around, Norfolk Bay. However, it is disappointing that we have to correct outlandish claims by TAMP in the Mercury on 2 Nov. We absolutely refute the erroneous claims made by TAMP – Huon manages its operations around evidence based data and unsubstantiated anecdotal comments such as this are totally inaccurate and offensive to the 5200 employees working across this industry.

*Comments can be attributed Frances Bender, Executive Director.*

**ENDS**

Huon media contact: Pene Snashall 0418 313 414/[psnashall@huonaqua.com.au](mailto:psnashall@huonaqua.com.au)