Media Release

Issued: 8th July 2019

ANOTHER FIRST FOR HUON AQUACULTURE

In another first for Huon Aquaculture, the biggest hatchery-grown salmon in the southern hemisphere are being transferred to sea.

The salmon will be in excess of 1kg, matching the size of a small proportion of salmon grown on-land by the world's leading salmon companies based in Norway and the Faroe Islands.

David Mitchell, Huon Aquaculture's Freshwater General Manager said, "Huon is setting a new benchmark for salmon farming in Tasmania."

"This has only been possible as a result of Huon's new $43M Whale Point nursery – by growing the salmon on land to this size in larger tanks, we are significantly reducing the time the fish will spend at sea, further improving the company's environmental performance allowing longer fallowing and improving biosecurity."

"Whale Point is the jewel in the crown of our freshwater farming operations, and I am excited to see such large, high-quality salmon leaving the nursery to go to sea in our first production trial of fish this size," said Mitchell.

The production trial will monitor fish performance as they grow to harvest size at 5-6kg.

"The salmon have been on-grown at Whale Point for seven months which will result in a reduction of time spent at sea by between 30-40 per cent from an average of 14 months, to 9 to 10 months."

"This will have significant benefits and will allow us to grow the fish to market size within a year."

Whale Point uses world-leading water recirculation technology that cleans and re-uses 98 to 99 per cent of the freshwater in which the fish are grown. This enables the water to be reused repeatedly with the remaining one to two per cent going to waste treatment.

The nursery has zero discharge to the environment due to the collection and composting of the fish nutrients for use by farmers.

"These trial salmon will be stocked into pens in the Huon and Channel where we will closely monitor their performance to harvest," finished Mitchell.

ENDS

Huon Aquaculture contact: Pene Snashall psnashall@huonaqua.com.au 0418 313 414

Cont..

Media Release

Background:

- Huon Aquaculture is Australia's only RSPCA Approved salmon farmer
- Peter and Frances Bender were jointly named as Australian Farmer of the Year in 2018
- Whale Point houses 12 circular 16-metre diameter, 4m deep, 800m3 grow-out tanks, four smaller grading tanks at 220m3, water treatment facilities and a staff office
- Approximately 200 local jobs were created during the construction phase
- The Whale Point Salmon Nursery is built on the site of the APM/Amcor pulp mill that was decommissioned in 1991
- During and since the construction phase, in consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency, the site has been cleaned up and rehabilitated

Current drawbacks to entirely land-based salmon farming:

- Technology is moving quickly, however, if we were to hypothetically shift to land-based farming now, it would make sense to build facilities close to the main markets on the mainland.
- At this point we don't feel the experience and reliability in growing the fish all the way to harvest is proven. We are keen to learn and gain experience and believe a combination of land-based and marine farming in Tasmania where we have our expertise is the right approach for us now.
- To enable on-land farming to be viable, the salmon would need to be held at high stocking densities to be economic—this would be up to ten times higher than our current stocking levels in the sea pens (99 per cent water to 1 per cent fish) and could have implications for their health and wellbeing and would not meet the RSPCA Farmed Salmon Standard.
- Salmon grown at sea are an excellent product and it is not yet fully understood how this might be affected by growing them all the way to harvest in freshwater.
- If you grow salmon on land in seawater, there are issues with disposing of both the solid and the liquid waste as it cannot be re-used on the land as a fertiliser or compost due to the very high salt content.
- Although on land can offer a more controlled environment, if something goes wrong you can lose all the fish.
- The capital cost is very high and higher running costs mean that it is not currently economic to produce salmon to harvest size on land.