

Media Release



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INCIDENT INVOLVING THE RONJA HUON

The safe coordination of racing, recreation and commercial operations have co-existed on these waters for decades and Huon Aquaculture will continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure safe, shared use of the waterways.

None of the sailing/yacht clubs have advised Huon of any concerns regarding the current or anticipated operations of our wellboats.

Earlier this month Huon approached major sailing/yacht clubs to brief them on the arrival of the new wellboat and to generally strengthen communications with their members.

We had a highly productive meeting with representatives from the Bellerive Yacht Club earlier this week. The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania is coordinating a suitable date while the Derwent Sailing Squadron has not responded.

There was an incident on 20 September between the SV Talofa and Huon's wellboat, the Ronja Huon. The skipper of the yacht involved notified MAST and informed the company of the incident.

As required under maritime regulation Huon then notified AMSA within 72 hours (via written report).

Huon has not received any further requests for information from AMSA or MAST.

Huon also conducted an internal investigation which included interviewing the skipper and crew member of the Talofa along with the Master and Chief Mate of the Ronja Huon and a review of the GPS and AIS logs.

At the time of the incident the Ronja Huon was a ship under the command of a Pilot Exempt master operating within the defined limits of the Port of Hobart and flying a plain white flag.

The common assumption that power always gives way to sail does not apply in this instance but regulations for avoiding collision at sea were followed by both vessels and a collision was avoided.

In relation to the incident of 2016 and whether lessons were learnt, MAST undertook a review resulting in eight recommendations, one which applied to Huon; the majority of the conclusions related to modifications required by the management of the Sandy Bay Sailing Club. The report noted that the Ronja Huon "correctly placed safety above the concerns of SBSC personnel with regards to the disruption of race results" (page 18).

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