



MANAGEMENT OF MARINE DEBRIS

- Maintaining the integrity of the marine environment and surrounding areas in which we farm plays a major factor in decision-making across the company. At Huon we take our responsibility to manage potential and actual marine debris seriously. This is why eliminating marine debris at the source remains our continual focus.
- Operating in extreme weather and high-energy sites presents an ongoing challenge to ensure that all equipment, ropes and general waste remains secured on our farms.
- Over the past few years, Huon has replaced all moorings, ropes and nets and has designed equipment to reduce the potential for marine debris. Similarly, Huon regularly educates employees, reviews operating procedures and adopts new technology and practices to continue to reduce the potential for marine debris.
- This requires continuous effort including a particular focus post-weather events and collecting marine debris at the request of the community, regardless of source.
- Our workforce is educated on reduction of marine debris and in the rare occasion that an employee is found to be doing the wrong thing, action is taken in the form of formal warnings and/or dismissal.
- We list results of our marine debris clean-ups on our online Sustainability Dashboard which includes the volume attributable to Huon, shoreline covered and total person hours spent undertaking the task.

HUON SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Policy and Regulation

Huon has a Marine Debris Policy which is part of our broader Environmental Management Plan and sits alongside specific Environmental and Waste Management Plans for each of our farm sites. This is in addition to the company's legal obligations in respect of a variety of State, federal and international legislation and conventions (for both marine and land-based activities).

Huon supported the industry-wide development of a *Code of Practice for the Prevention, Control and Re-use of Marine Debris* (accessible on our website) to provide guidelines for standard aquaculture practices aligned with the State Government's 'zero tolerance' to marine debris. All waste is stored, handled and disposed of in accordance to the following guidelines:

- Threat Abatement Plan for the Impacts of Marine Debris on Vertebrate Marine Life;
- Threat Abatement Plan for the Impacts of Marine Debris on the Vertebrate Wildlife of Australia's Coasts and Oceans;
- DPIPWE Corporate Plan 2018-2022; and the
- International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.



The marine farming industry is bound by the *Tasmanian Marine Farming Planning Act 1995*, the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995* and the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*.

Under Tasmanian law, the following applies to all marine farm operators:

- There must not be any unauthorised marine farming equipment including any rope, cable or other devices used for securing marine farming equipment, outside of lease areas;
- All equipment on marine leases must be kept in a serviceable condition;
- Any redundant, dilapidated, or loose marine farming structures and equipment must be removed from a lease area at the request of the DPIPW or MAST; and
- If any part of a marine farming structure or any marine farming equipment break away from the lease area, then it must be recovered as soon as is reasonably possible and returned to the lease area or otherwise disposed of in an appropriate manner.

Fortress Pens

Over the past few years, Huon has invested more than \$100M in our patented Fortress Pens which are in use in some of the roughest farming conditions in the world; Storm Bay. This site is high energy, frequently receiving storms swells and gale force winds and the pens continue to withstand the elements. Our Fortress Pens contain no steel parts to damage boats or chaff through nets and ropes. We also use light-weight, super-strong nets on the pens (made from the same material as bullet-proof vests) which can withstand extremely high current flow, eliminating the loss of pen components in challenging weather.

Shoreline Clean-ups

Huon staff regularly patrol and clean shorelines and beaches across Tasmania and details of each clean up can be found on our Sustainability Dashboard (<https://dashboard.huonaqua.com.au/>). When we clean up a shoreline we remove everything regardless of whether it is attributable to us. These shorelines are our backyards and we have a responsibility to minimise the impact of our farming on them. We believe that managing and reducing marine debris isn't just an aquaculture issue, but a whole of community issue.

Equipment Branding and Tracking

Where practicable, Huon brands all new equipment (for identification) plus the company is undertaking a process to systematically brand all legacy existing pipes, moorings, buoys etc. We also register all our types of coloured rope with State Government and MAST for easy identification.

All our grid cans moored in the challenging Storm Bay environment contain GPS trackers. While we do everything we can to prevent equipment becoming loose, tracking devices will ensure that if equipment does stray we know immediately and can identify where the gear's located.

Lease Surveys

At Huon, we conduct environmental monitoring within/underneath our pen bays and leased areas as well as 35 metres beyond the boundary of our leases. We inspect under every pen every 3-4 weeks to proactively manage our sites before any fish-farming impact (including marine debris) requires intervention. This is in addition to baseline surveys (prior to lease stocking) and annual video surveys (provided to the EPA).

Stopping marine debris at the source

A major part of our focus regarding marine debris is stopping it at the source. To do this, our workforce is trained in knot tying which reduces the amount of rope offcuts inadvertently ending up in our waterways. We have also trialled having various bins/collection points on vessels and continue to look for ways to improve our operations.

Equally as important as training and appropriate disposal is awareness. This is why, wherever possible, our employees conduct shoreline clean-ups. A noticeable shift in employee behaviour has been observed after participation in this activity which directly drives positive change. While the majority of our employees do the right thing, in some cases there are people who don't. Those found to be acting contrary to expected behaviours are cautioned and further breaches may lead to termination of employment.

