



Media Release

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FIRE DAMAGES A HUON AQUACULTURE FISH PEN

In the early hours of this morning, a fire broke out on a Huon Aquaculture pen in the Channel. The fire damaged approximately a third of a pen, burning through and melting the pen infrastructure above and just below the waterline.

Peter Bender, Huon Aquaculture CEO, said the fire melted the infrastructure and has resulted in a fish loss at Huon's Zuidpool lease.

"We are estimating that we have lost between 50,000 – 52,000 4kg fish and in accordance with our reporting requirements, we have notified MAST, EPA and DPIPWE Marine Farm Branch," said Peter.

This number has been ascertained by conducting a count of the remaining fish by using one of Huon's wellboats.

The calm weather enabled crews to thoroughly search the surrounding area including shorelines to retrieve any pen components that had come adrift during the fire.

"We have electrical equipment on our pens, but in 35 years of farming we have never had an electrical fire on a fish pen so the cause has baffled us."

"An investigation into the cause of the fire is underway and we are not ruling anything out at this early stage, and we encourage anyone who saw the fire to contact us," said Peter.

Mr Bender said studies of previous fish escapes along with the 2018 IMAS survey indicated it was unlikely the salmon escapees would have any impact on native marine fauna.

"The IMAS survey was consistent with previous studies (here and overseas) where farmed salmon generally don't appear to feed on native species as they are typically used to feeding on fish pellets.

"Tasmania has no native salmonids so there is no impact on wild genetic stocks (a problem in some northern hemisphere countries) plus escaped salmon typically don't last long, unfortunately, what the seals don't get, the fisherman quickly do", Peter finished.

ENDS

Attached image for use

Background:

- Huon Aquaculture is not required to release an announcement to the ASX as this statement does not impact the material value of the company.
- There are no regulatory requirements to publically report fish losses.
- No Huon employees were harmed as a result of the fire.

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