



CHEMICAL COMPOUND USE/HEAVY METALS

- Salmon farming is occasionally wrongly accused of “using chemicals” or environmental contaminants in our farming practices.
- In its most pure definition, a chemical is a range of compounds – including H₂O (water) and Sodium Chloride (salt), two essential elements of the ocean.
- Therapeutants, such as antibiotics, are chemical substances which we occasionally use to treat sick fish. Their use is strictly overseen and administered by one of our veterinarians. See Fact Sheet – Antibiotics for more information.
- We submit our salmon and trout for routine testing by the Federal Government as part of the National Residue Survey and since we began reporting to the NRS in 2000 there have been no detections of any additives, anthelmintics, contaminants, hormones, PCBs/dioxin-like chemicals or insecticides in Huon Aquaculture products. Survey results continue to demonstrate that the presence of heavy metals in our fish is exceedingly low. Check out the [NRS results here](#).
- There has been a lot of analysis undertaken on dioxins and PCB's in Australia (both environmentally and in agricultural products) with evidence showing that levels of these compounds are generally much lower than in other countries and residues in fish are either very low or non-existent. Tasmania is likely to be even better due to much lower historical pesticide/herbicide use.
- In addition to government testing, we also undertake our own voluntary testing the results of which we make publically available on our website – [Flesh Testing Results](#)
- Lead and Mercury have a mandated limit of 0.5 to 1 mg/kg. Our most current results (2020) show that Huon fish came in at 0.01mg/kg; some 50 to 100 times lower than the mandated level.
- The source of Mercury in farmed (and wild) fish is what they eat; the difference is that we know exactly what our fish eat but no-one really has clarity on what any individual wild fish has eaten nor where they have been feeding.

WHAT CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS DOES HUON USE?

Disinfectants and cleaners are used to clean our nets however this is performed on-shore in special facilities where the waste water is controlled. Our nets are only cleaned using equipment that physically removes the fouling without the need for chemicals.

Anaesthetics are sometimes used on our fish so they can be handled safely for procedures such as health checks or vaccinations without causing any damage or stress. The only two anaesthetic compounds used are benzocaine (commonly used in pain relief gels for human mouth ulcers and in common cough drops) or Aquis (a derivative of the commonly used clove oil as a sedative and a relief method for tooth pain).

There are a number of chemical compounds found in our fish feed pellets including:



- Inorganic phosphates (necessary to meet the phosphorus requirements for animal production to ensure optimal growth, fertility and bone development). Phosphorus is indispensable for life and animals cannot live without it.
- Propionic and sorbic acids are widely used in food for human consumption—propionic acid is present naturally in dairy products and works alongside other short-chain fatty acids in the gastrointestinal tract of humans and other mammals as an end product of the microbial digestion of carbohydrates while sorbic acid is a naturally occurring compound that has become the most commonly used food preservative in the world. It is most commonly found in human foods (wines, cheeses, fresh produce, refrigerated meat etc.), animal feeds, pharmaceutical drugs and cosmetics.
- Amino acids (alanine and proline), often referred to as the building blocks of proteins, these core chemicals are needed by both the human and animal body to function well.
- Inosine is a nucleoside, one of the basic compounds comprising cells. It is essential in the metabolism of organisms and important for a functioning immune system and has led to advances in immunotherapy in recent decades.

In addition, we are part of an independently run programme to quality assure our fish for entry to the European Union and other overseas markets; this involves testing of our fish for a range of substances and comparing these with relevant standards.

