



MANAGEMENT OF MARINE FARMING EQUIPMENT

- Operating in extreme weather and high-energy sites presents an ongoing challenge to ensure that all equipment, ropes and general farming equipment remains secured, and in a serviceable state, within our leases.
- Over the past few years, Huon has replaced all moorings, ropes and nets and specifically designed equipment to reduce the potential for loss. Similarly, Huon regularly educates employees, reviews operating procedures and adopts new technology and practices to continue to reduce the potential for loss of marine farming equipment.
- The State Government has adopted a zero tolerance approach to marine debris generated by the salmon industry. Noting this government policy direction is outlined in the Sustainable Industry Growth Plan for the Salmon Industry, the only legislative authority available relates to marine farming equipment (not marine debris) and as such there are no statutory or regulatory powers relating to “marine debris” for the salmon industry.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

In the Tasmanian Marine Farming Planning Act 1995 there is only one statutory power relating to marine farming equipment in Division 2 – Offences, Section 94(1). This states:

94. Location of marine farming equipment

(1) A person, unless otherwise authorised, must not have:

(a) any rope, cable or other device securing any marine farming equipment outside a marine farming zone; or

(b) any marine farming equipment, other than any rope, cable or other device securing any marine equipment, outside the lease area.

In addition, within each Marine Farm Development Plan are specific management controls (Section 3.12) relating to marine farming equipment which lessees must comply: These are:

- (1) Lessees must maintain marine farming structures and equipment in a serviceable condition on lease areas held by them.
- (2) Lessees must remove redundant, dilapidated or loose marine farming structures and equipment from State waters as directed by the Secretary.
- (3) If any parts of marine farming structures or equipment break away from the lease area, lessees must take action as soon as is reasonably possible to recover those structures and equipment and return them to the lease area or otherwise dispose of them in an appropriate manner.



- (4) A lessee who becomes aware of a potential hazard to navigation must, as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the hazard, notify the Marine and Safety Authority and take any other action directed by the Marine and Safety Authority and/or considered necessary by the lessee.

Finally, every marine farm licence contains conditions relating to the management of marine farming equipment.

HUON SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Policy and Regulation

The marine farming industry is bound by the *Marine Farming Planning Act 1995*, the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995* as well as the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*. Huon also has a specific Standard Operating Procedure relating to the safe and secure management of marine farming equipment, specific Environmental and Waste Management Plans for each farm site 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 also supported the industry-wide development of a *Code of Practice for the Prevention, Control and Re-use of Marine Debris* (accessible on our website).

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](#). 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 the quantum of debris found in the water and on shorelines 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 equipment is located.

Lease Surveys

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).

Keeping Marine Farming Equipment Contained

A major part of our focus regarding safe management of marine farm equipment is to prevent it becoming lose. 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.



Shoreline Cleanups

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, similar to non-employees across any community. Those found to be acting contrary to expected behaviours are cautioned and further breaches may lead to termination of employment. This requires continuous effort including a particular focus post-weather events and collecting any found items at the request of the community, regardless of source, or regardless of any correlation with salmon farming.

If marine farming equipment is found (either on water or on land) it can be reported via the following mechanisms – mobile App (DebrisTracker), 24/7 hotline (1300 332 747) or if a potential navigational hazard, contact Marine and Safety Tasmania 0418 145 439. These reports are automatically forwarded to government authorities in addition to the relevant salmon company to arrange collection.

