



RSPCA APPROVED FARMING SCHEME

- The RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme is Australia's leading independent certification scheme focused on animal welfare.
- In 2018, Huon Aquaculture became the first seafood producer to join the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme after satisfying the rigorous animal welfare standards that the RSPCA set for farmed Atlantic salmon.
- For two years prior to joining the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme, Huon sites and procedures were assessed against the RSPCA's farmed Atlantic salmon Standard.
- The RSPCA's Standard focuses on ensuring good fish farming practices, handling, husbandry and management. For good fish welfare, fish have space to swim normally in oxygen-rich water and can school with other fish, they are handled in a low-stress manner and are slaughtered humanely.
- Huon's farms are subject to scheduled and unscheduled assessments, harvest is recorded by CCTV and can be reviewed anytime at the request of the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme. The Standards do not support farming undertaken in Macquarie Harbour, so only 98% of Huon Salmon is RSPCA Approved.

WHY RSPCA APPROVED?

Huon decided to join the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme as we believe that it reflects our commitment of placing fish health and welfare at the centre of our farming operations. It is this ethos that has stood us in good stead for the last 35 years and will for many more to come.

Many certifications and approvals focus solely on the sustainability of operations, but not many put animal welfare at centre stage the way RSPCA Approved does. With a growing number of Australians including fish in their diets, it's important that caring consumers have the opportunity to choose a product that has been raised to a higher standard of animal welfare.

By 2025, demand for animal protein is set to double which is why ethical, sustainable farming could not be more crucial. We need to farm marine and freshwater species in a way that protects wild stocks, preserves the environment and provides safe, healthy food for a growing global population.

THE STANDARD

RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme Standards are based on animal welfare science, RSPCA policy, leading farming practices in Australia and overseas and take account of the commercial realities associated with farming.

The RSPCA's animal welfare standard for farmed Atlantic salmon provide the requirements for rearing, handling, transport and slaughter of fish that must be met under the Scheme.



The RSPCA encourages producers to exceed these standards as the opportunity arises and commit to a pathway of continuous improvement in the welfare of their salmon.

The standards are reviewed every five years and are [publicly available](#).

WHAT DOES IT COST TO BE RSPCA APPROVED?

The RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme is not-for-profit, with funds paid by licensees (i.e. brands like Huon) used only to fund the Scheme's operational costs, including assessment of farms and production processes throughout the year. Huon pays the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme an annual licencing fee which covers the costs of ongoing assessments and certification, along with management of the Scheme and promotion of RSPCA Approved products.

Huon does not have exclusive rights to RSPCA certification. The Scheme is open to all Atlantic salmon farmers in Australia and they too can become RSPCA Approved providing that they meet the requirements of the RSPCA's Standard and are regularly assessed.

WHY NOT MACQUARIE HARBOUR?

It is no secret that we have concerns over the health of Macquarie Harbour, as does the RSPCA.

RSPCA is of the view that the current environmental conditions within the harbour present a high risk of poor welfare outcomes for the salmon farmed in this location. As a result, they have taken the decision not to allow farming of salmon in Macquarie Harbour as part of the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme's Standard for farmed Atlantic salmon.

When future independent evidence indicates a sufficient improvement in the water quality and general environmental conditions within Macquarie Harbour, this decision will be reviewed. Around 2 per cent of our overall production is in Macquarie Harbour and as a company, we have taken proactive steps to mitigate against these environmental conditions including installing oxygenation systems on our pens, reducing stocking density and bringing forward our harvest.

