



ANTIBIOTIC USE

- We believe that disease control in salmon requires a holistic approach. Good site management, fish husbandry and rigorous biosecurity measures are central to reducing the risk of disease outbreaks and controlling the spread of infectious diseases, while antibiotics must never be used for performance reasons.
- The correct use of antibiotic is critical in reducing antimicrobial resistance which is why our veterinarians/fish health teams follow the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines for the use of antibiotics in livestock industries. Antibiotics are only prescribed following a full investigation, confirmation of diagnosis through laboratory testing of fish health samples and after confirming antibiotic sensitivity of causative organisms. There is a strict withholding period which means that any traces are completely passed through the fish long before it is harvested. Antibiotics are generally added to the feed pellets.
- Huon voluntarily [publicly](#) reports antibiotic use in addition to meeting regulatory (immediate) reporting requirements to government authorities for Huon owned and operated sites. Huon adheres to the Global Salmon Initiative (GSI) annual reporting requirement (of active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) used (in grams) per tonne of fish produced (LWE) in the period (FY or CY) – in Huon’s case it is CY, aligned with JBS financial reporting.
- Following the antibiotic treatment a residue monitoring survey was conducted by an independent consultant and submitted to the EPA. All sediment samples (pen, transect and control) returned antibiotic concentrations below the limit of reporting in both Round 1 and 2 of the residue monitoring survey. The full survey results are published by the EPA.
- From 2017 to December 2021 no antibiotics were used across any marine leases (both in Macquarie Harbour and in South East Tasmania). In January 2022, some smolt at our Yellow Bluff lease were treated for the bacteria, *Vibrio*, which is present in saltwater but generally doesn’t cause a primary illness (ie marine livestock are unaffected) which is why Huon’s fish have not been previously vaccinated. The warmer water conditions over the 2021/22 Summer may be one reason why fish displayed signs of the illness. A vaccine exists against *Vibrio* so all future year classes will receive this vaccination in conjunction with the annual vaccination schedule.
- Across our freshwater sites, Huon has not used antibiotics at any of our land-based sites (i.e. hatcheries) since January 2019. Our use of antibiotics across our freshwater operations (i.e. hatcheries) is restricted to our non-consumptive flow-through hatcheries (which only hold on average around 20 per cent of our total smolt biomass). Huon also participates in the annual independent National Residue Survey (NRS) to monitor levels of therapeutants (results are industry-wide).
- Australia has one of the most conservative approaches in the world to the use of antimicrobials in food producing animals and is a world leader in minimising the use of antibiotics in food producing animals.

