



Tassal Group Limited

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Level 4, Exchange Centre
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Via e-lodgement

Sustainable environmental conditions in Macquarie Harbour

Recent media comments attributed to Huon Aquaculture regarding growing conditions in Macquarie Harbour on Tasmania's west coast do not reflect Tassal's experience in the region, Tassal managing director and chief executive officer Mark Ryan said.

Mr Ryan said while it was true that the west coast had experienced an unseasonably hot and dry summer this season, overall mortalities and growth had both been in line with forecast expectations and long-term strategies.

"Environmental conditions are also in-line within expectations with the science undertaken by both the salmon industry and the Tasmanian Government underpinning the regulation of salmon farming in Macquarie Harbour," he said.

"All of Tassal's fish stock are from our selective breeding program which has focussed on breeding fish adapted for Tasmanian conditions; meaning they are more resilient to higher temperatures and challenging water conditions.

"Tassal spends considerable time and resources choosing marine sites that will be sustainable into the future and has a number of mitigation strategies in place to manage warm waters, including increasing our net washing frequency and reviewing our feed management practices as required."

Mr Ryan said dissolved oxygen levels and temperature had been the main husbandry challenges for Tassal this summer, but these had been managed effectively.

"Dissolved oxygen concentrations in harbour waters are influenced by wind and rain events, as well as air temperature," he said.

"Temperatures have cooled and Tassal sites have seen a dramatic oxygen recharge over the past two weeks.

"Additionally, the bottom water dissolved oxygen is continuing to re-charge after the initial low bottom water low dissolved oxygen event in 2013.

"The bottom water dissolved oxygen in Macquarie Harbour has experienced another re-

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charge event from oceanic and weather drivers around two-weeks-ago."

Mr Ryan said Tassal remained committed to growing salmon sustainably and for the long-term in Macquarie Harbour and had just recently successfully completed its second Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) surveillance audit in the harbour.

"All of Tassal's farms are certified to ASC standards," he said.

Released by:
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About Tassal

Tassal Group Limited (ASX: TGR) is a vertically integrated salmon grower and salmon and seafood processor, seller and marketer. The Company produces and sells premium salmon and seafood products for both the Australian domestic and export markets. Tassal grows delicious, fresh and healthy Atlantic salmon in Tasmania's fresh waters and through its De Costi Seafood business sources and processes a wide range of seafood. Tassal is committed to taking a leadership role in sustainability in aquaculture and seafood sourcing. The company employs more than 1,100 people. Visit www.tassal.com.au for more information.

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