



Market Release  
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## Tassal announces positive Macquarie Harbour survey results

Tassal is pleased to confirm positive environmental improvement results at Macquarie Harbour.

Tassal Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer Mark Ryan said there is clear evidence, following the latest survey findings, that Tassal's Middle Harbour lease 214 and Gordon lease 219 are back to 100% full compliance.

"The latest environmental surveys show leases 214 and 219 are fully compliant, while lease 266 has made a significant recovery with the April 2017 survey results highlighting three potential non-compliances (down from 14 non-compliances)," Mr Ryan said.

Franklin lease 266 is empty with no salmon on the lease as per EPA (Environmental Protection Authority) direction. This is the lease site closest to the World Heritage Area (WHA).

Tassal predicts full out-of-lease compliance at the May 2017 Compliance Survey.

Results received in the April survey data from the WHA in relation to *Beggiatoa* showed none detected in the WHA until close to the mouth of the Gordon River; over 11km from the centre of the farming region. This indicates the *Beggiatoa* is caused by other external influences in the Harbour.

Mr Ryan said it must be noted the presence of *Beggiatoa* is not necessarily an indicator of organic enrichment from marine farms, but of organic matter enrichment in general.

"In areas of high organic matter input and low oxygen availability *Beggiatoa* matting can be a natural but transient phenomenon. In Macquarie Harbour mat formations near farms and in areas away from farms can disappear as oxygen levels naturally change throughout the greater Macquarie Harbour system," he said.

This is in line with the fact industry monitoring has recorded observations of *Beggiatoa* historically at several WHA monitoring sites, which did not appear to have a relationship with the salmon farming precinct.

The March and April surveys have also found signs of biological recovery in the benthic communities demonstrating Macquarie Harbour is responding well to the changing natural conditions.

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Tassal strongly supports an adaptive, environmental management regime in Macquarie Harbour to underpin ongoing, sustainable salmon farming for the region. Tassal is calling for a standardised policing process across all marine leases in Tasmania, paid for by the industry, with a penalty framework that motivates a continued high level of compliance across the whole industry.

Tassal has a long history of strong marine compliance, with 2016 results demonstrating 96% compliance (which included non-compliances in Macquarie Harbour).

Going forward, Tassal supports a lease by lease approach to salmon farming in Macquarie Harbour and given the unpredictability of the Harbour's system, biomass should be reviewed regularly.

### **About Tassal**

Tassal is Australia's largest producer of fresh salmon products and currently harvests approximately 25,000 tonnes of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) per annum, contributing 70% of Australia's total Atlantic salmon harvest each year, with all the stock produced in Tasmania.

Tassal is a vertically integrated company that includes freshwater hatcheries, saltwater aquaculture, primary processing and value adding. Tassal is committed to taking a leadership role in sustainable aquaculture production and seafood sourcing. In 2015, Tassal acquired De Costi Seafoods to establish additional distribution networks for meeting a growing national and international demand for sustainable seafood products. Tassal is a publicly listed company on the Australian Stock Exchange.

Tassal employs over 1200 staff, 90% of whom are based in Tasmania, with a majority in rural areas.

### **Media**

Mark Ryan will make a statement at 11am, 1 Franklin Wharf.

Released by Tassal Corporate Communications  
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