



## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 30, 2007

### **CLEAN SEAS SIGNS M.O.U. WITH INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION**

#### **Alliance will assist with arrival of tuna eggs and fish larvae**

Publicly listed South Australian aquaculture pioneer, Clean Seas Tuna Limited has teamed up with the US-based Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) as it prepares for the arrival of the first Southern Bluefin Tuna eggs and larvae at its Arno Bay hatchery.

Under a Memorandum of Understanding signed this week, the IATTC and Clean Seas will cooperate in joint research to close the lifecycle of Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT). IATTC scientists – several of whom already have been working at the Arno Bay hatchery - will provide Clean Seas with advice on rearing juvenile tuna.

The IATTC, established by international convention in 1950, comprises 16 member nations jointly responsible for the conservation and management of tuna and other species taken by tuna-fishing vessels in the eastern Pacific Ocean. The IATTC has already successfully bred Yellowfin Tuna from a spawning population held for more than 10 years.

Clean Seas Chairman, Mr Hagen Stehr AO, said the formalisation of the relationship between the two organisations was another significant step towards the successful closure of the SBT lifecycle – a key goal of Clean Seas Tuna Limited when it became a publicly listed company in 2005.

“We are doing everything we can to achieve our goal of delivering commercial quantities of SBT juveniles into the waters of South Australia - and that includes working with the best people in the world,” Mr Stehr said.

“This MOU means we will be working closely with an organisation that has experience in rearing tuna and teaming that with the passion, skills and energy of Clean Seas to deliver Southern Bluefin Tuna juveniles.

SBT have never before been bred “in captivity”. However, the IATTC has maintained a spawning population of YFT since 1996 at the Achotines Laboratory in the Republic of Panama.



Members of the Achotines Laboratory staff and the IATTC Early Life History (ELH) group – which has more than 10 years experience working with broodstock YFT and the resulting eggs, larvae and juveniles – will spend time working with Clean Seas’ own research and development team in South Australia as part of the cooperation agreement.

Clean Seas is currently preparing for another spawning run at its state-of-the-art land-based Arno Bay hatchery over the next few months.

The Chair of Clean Seas’ Research and Development team, Dr Craig Foster, said Clean Seas had developed a close relationship with the IATTC and that the MOU was a logical extension of that relationship to ensure the company maximised its chances of rearing SBT.

Clean Seas Tuna Limited listed on the Australian Stock Exchange in December, 2005. Clean Seas’ major shareholder, the Stehr Group was established in the early 1970s and is now recognised as an Australian leader and international pioneer in tuna fishing and offshore fish farming. In 2007-08, Clean Seas aims to produce 1.2 million Yellowtail Kingfish fingerlings and 200,000 Mulloway fingerlings and an initial production of its first SBT fingerlings.

[[www.cleaneastuna.com.au](http://www.cleaneastuna.com.au)]

The IATTC, established by international convention in 1950, comprises 16 member nations jointly responsible for the conservation and management of tuna and other species taken by tuna-fishing vessels in the eastern Pacific Ocean. Its member nations include France, Japan, Panama, Spain, and the United States. [ [www.iattc.org](http://www.iattc.org) ]

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#### **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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