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## **S.A. AQUACULTURE LEADER AN AUSTRALIAN INNOVATOR, SAYS NATIONAL BUSINESS MAGAZINE**

South Australian aquaculture pioneer, Hagen Stehr AO, has been named by leading business magazine, *BRW*, as one of the nation's leading innovators for his progress towards closing the lifecycle of Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT).

The Port Lincoln-based founder and Executive Chairman of Clean Seas Tuna Limited earlier this year announced the world-first breakthrough of inducing male SBT to spawn at Clean Seas' onshore hatchery at Arno Bay in South Australia and is hopeful of producing SBT fingerlings by the third quarter of 2008.

The flagship edition of *BRW* (June 29-August 1) features Mr Stehr as Australia's leading rural innovator and profiles the veteran tuna fisherman's contribution to sustainable aquaculture. *BRW* says its Innovators edition "has taken what is, for many, an arcane concept and humanised it."

"The mantras of innovation – thinking outside the square, tolerating risk, returning from failure – have been brought to life in profiles of 10 corporate and public-sector leaders ... in our Australian Innovators Hall of Fame," the magazine says.

Mr Stehr said the \$2.3 billion seafood industry is Australia's fourth largest food industry after beef, wheat and milk. Aquaculture's share of Australia's total fisheries gross value of production rose from 17 per cent in 1992-93 to 32 per cent in 2002-03.

"Aquaculture will continue to deliver a greater proportion of the seafood the world consumes, and it must become the dominant source of seafood if we are to sustain natural fishery resources while meeting demand for seafood in Australia, where we each eat an average 12 kilos of fish a year, and in the increasingly affluent South East Asian nations where the recognised health benefits of seafood are key market drivers," he said.

Mr Stehr tells *BRW* that "the sky is the limit."

"The more people who say it can't be done, the more it makes me want to show them that it can be done. To create a new tuna industry that is successful is very exciting – it keeps me going. The Japanese have closed the Northern Bluefin Tuna lifecycle and this has been my inspiration."

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### **For further information**

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