



NEWS RELEASE

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CLEAN SEAS AND JAPAN'S KINKI UNIVERSITY TEAM UP TO BOOST BLUEFIN TUNA PROPAGATION

The two world leaders in Bluefin Tuna propagation have joined forces to achieve common goals. Australian aquaculture pioneer Clean Seas Tuna Limited and Japan's Kinki University have today signed a collaboration agreement which will see the aquaculture pioneers exchange successful tuna propagation and husbandry technologies.

The agreement was signed yesterday (Monday, September 22) at Kinki University in Wakayama prefecture near Osaka, by Clean Seas Chairman, Mr Hagen Stehr AO and Kinki University Director, Professor Osamu Murata.

The collaboration agreement is the benchmark of the Japanese government's Global centre of Excellence (GCOE) program involving the internationalisation of technologies and techniques abroad. Kinki University was the sole university to be invited by the Japanese government to participate in the GOCE Fisheries program in recognition of the scientific work established by the late Professor Dr Harada.

The agreement will establish a visiting scientists program which will see Clean Seas scientists working in Japan and Kinki University scientists working in South Australia. It also has the potential to extend bi-lateral cooperation between the Japanese and Australian governments.

Kinki University's Northern Bluefin Tuna (NBT) hatchery technology program commenced in 1970 and resulted in the spawning of NBT under natural ocean conditions in net cages off Wakayama in 1979 and the first successful completion of the tuna lifecycle in 2002 by Professor Dr Kumai.

Clean Seas Tuna Limited, publicly floated in December, 2005 to pursue the commercial propagation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, earlier this year announced the world-first hatching of live and active SBT larvae at its multi-million land-based breeding facility at Arno Bay on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula. Clean Seas' first step in securing sustainable production of the premium endangered species was achieved just 18 months after commencing its breeding program.

Mr Stehr said he had long been impressed and inspired by Kinki University's achievements in Northern Bluefin breeding, propagation and commercialisation.

“We have recently embarked on a similar journey and feel that we can both continue our successes in a collaborative way to the benefit of both organisations,” Mr Stehr said. “In addition, we believe that through the collaboration and opportunities presented by having different spawning seasons, we can continue to jointly make good progress in the understanding of Bluefin propagation.”

Professor Murata welcomed the collaborative partnership between Kinki University and Clean Seas Tuna Ltd and recognised the shared goal of both organisations to reduce dependency on wild caught fish. Kinki University's propagated NBT are currently being used as broodstock, fully closing the NBT life cycle. Last year, Kinki University sold 1,500 bred tuna of one kilogram (about 40 cm) to Japan aqua farming market. This year, Kinki University is targeting significant commercial quantities of tuna juveniles to be available through the use of pioneering survival rate techniques and technologies.

Mr Stehr said Clean Seas Tuna was on track with its artificial breeding regime, with its primary objective being the grow out of SBT fingerlings produced from its own broodstock to sizes required by the rapidly expanding world seafood markets. This would enable year round production of SBT and lower the overall cost of production, he said.

“This has extraordinary benefits for Clean Seas and its shareholders in that these fish will not be subject to the strict Australian SBT wild catch quotas. There will also be no trade barriers for their sale into major fish markets of Japan, China, the US and the European Union where natural fish stocks are severely depleted.

“We are confident that we will be able to emulate the success we have achieved with other aquaculture species such as Yellowtail Kingfish and Mulloway – and in so doing reward the faith of those who have invested in our dream and those who have worked so hard to turn it into reality.”

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