



NEWS RELEASE

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WORLD-LEADING FEED STATION

A BOOST FOR CLEAN SEAS

Australian aquaculture pioneer Clean Seas Tuna has developed a multi-million dollar, world-leading feeding station for its Kingfish grow-out operations to improve efficiencies and reinforce its position as a quality supplier of finfish to the world.

The \$2.5 million feed station has been designed and built by Clean Seas and can carry up to 600 tonnes of dry feed – the equivalent of up to a month's food supply for the globally prized Kingfish and Southern Bluefin Tuna.

Measuring 52 metres by 12 metres, the fully automated barge is now stationed offshore from the Clean Seas Arno Bay hatchery in Spencer Gulf, South Australia.

Dry pellets are distributed in strictly controlled portions via a floating network of flexible pipes connected to up to 30 sea pens holding about 3000 tonnes of fish spread across a three square kilometre area of ocean.

Previously the kingfish were fed by Clean Seas feeding vessels supplying feed to each pen daily.

Clean Seas Tuna managing director Mr Marcus Stehr, says the feeding station has been two years in the making and underpins the company's commitment to world-leading quality control.

"The dry feed is sprayed over the middle of each sea cage, ensuring not one pellet goes to waste," he said. "Computers control the distribution of the feed, spraying pellets into two sea cages at a time under the watchful eye of closed circuit TVs on the feed barge. Once a sea cage has received its portion, a valve automatically shuts off the pipe to that pen, and feed is then directed to the next two pens. Portion sizes vary to meet the individual needs of fish in each sea cage.

"Feeding is monitored by television cameras and the barge is manned 24 hours a day with an operator who also supervises the cages."

Mr Stehr said the feeding station also assisted with bio-security by ensuring the feed was stored securely and not contaminated by any foreign matter. It also boosted the company's commitment to environmental sustainability.

"It reinforces our competitive advantage as an exporter of high quality finfish to the world and our ability to help meet rising demand for kingfish in the years ahead," he said.



World-first feeding barge

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“Most importantly, this also gives us the ability to increase our production volumes in line with company growth targets.”

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation says global demand for fish is growing at about 1.1 per cent annually, courtesy of demand from Asia and other emerging markets.

The feed barge also has the flexibility to feed Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) once Clean Seas begins commercial production of its aquaculture-bred SBT later this year. In March, Clean Seas successfully closed the SBT life cycle for the first time. Fingerlings up to 70 days old and 20 centimetres in length are now being held at the company's onshore breeding facility at Arno Bay.

“Clean Seas Tuna wishes to acknowledge their appreciation for the contributions made to our endeavours by the following organisations, Ausindustry, Seafood CRC, Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, University of Sunshine Coast, South Australian Research and Development Institute, Flinders University, New South Wales Department of Primary Industries, Northern Territory Department of Regional Development / Primary Industry / Fisheries and Resources, Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute, Kinki University, Hellenic Center for Marine Research, Heinrich-Heine Universität, University of Maryland, EU research consortiums SELFDOTT and REPRODOTT, Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission and the Tuna Research and Conservation Center”.

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