



NEWS RELEASE

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KINKI AND CLEAN SEAS EXTEND TUNA BREEDING SUCCESS

Kinki University of Japan – acknowledged as a global aquaculture leader for its artificial spawning and cultivation of Pacific Bluefin Tuna – has lent its experience to another aquaculture pioneer with extraordinary results.

A Memorandum of Understanding established between Kinki University and Australian aquaculture pioneer Clean Seas Tuna in 2008 has seen the company successfully close the Southern Bluefin Tuna seedling production cycle only two years into its breeding program with the help of Kinki University scientists.

Since February, 2009, four groups of highly qualified Kinki University scientists including four Professors, one Associate Professor, two Assistant Professors and two higher level technical staff have visited Clean Seas' operations at Arno Bay, near Port Lincoln, South Australia to assist with the successful completion of the SBT seedling production cycle.

In March, Clean Seas successfully closed the SBT seedling production cycle for the first time in collaboration with Kinki University. Healthy stocks of fingerlings up to three months old are now being held at the company's onshore breeding facility at Arno Bay and the company plans to commence commercial production of artificially bred SBT later this year.

Kinki University's involvement with the Clean Seas SBT breeding program allowed breeding challenges such as cannibalism and tank wall collisions to be overcome quickly. Similarly, the Japanese team's experience contributed to high survival rates and fast-tracked the weaning of SBT juveniles from hatched larvae to raw fish or formulated diets.

Both Kinki University and Clean Seas scientists agree that the breeding program has been a major success, with even a small number of juveniles at the first attempt at SBT seedling production being considered as an outstanding performance.

The scientists believe the world-first SBT seedling production will provide the opportunity to establish sustainable aquaculture of this important species, which will develop the world-wide aquaculture industry and eventually reduce the pressure on natural stock of this species.

Part of the collaborative studies on the larval development of SBT was supported by the Global COE Program of Kinki University.

Kinki University began researching the cultivation of Pacific Bluefin Tuna (PBT) in 1970 and achieved its first "artificial" spawning in 1979. In 1995, Kinki University aquaculture scientists successfully "artificially" produced seedlings for cultivation and subsequently raised those seedlings to parent fish. In 2002, Kinki University obtained fertilised eggs from these same parent fish and hatched them to become a healthy school of PBT babies.

In doing so, Kinki University became the first (and remains the only) group of researchers to achieve a "full-cycle culture" of PBT, which is now trademarked as "Kindai™ tuna". This full-cycle culture technology provides a practical means to prevent the depletion of not only PBT but also many other fish species in high demand.

"Kindai™ tuna", which is only raised in Kinki University's farms, is currently exported to the US, exclusively by agent NNPR Inc.

"Clean Seas Tuna wishes to acknowledge its 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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