



NEWS RELEASE

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WORLD AQUACULTURE LEADERS

LOOK TO CLEAN SEAS CHIEF

The chairman of Australian aquaculture pioneer Clean Seas Tuna will meet aquaculture leaders in Scandinavia this weekend to discuss the company's success in closing the life cycle of the Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT).

Mr Hagen Stehr AO is travelling to Oslo, Norway, at the invitation of global aquaculture experts following Clean Seas' breakthrough earlier this year in breeding SBT at its onshore breeding facility at Arno Bay in Spencer Gulf, South Australia.

International fisheries experts are keen to learn from the Clean Seas experience in a bid to boost stocks of Northern Bluefin Tuna, which cannot meet the escalating demand for seafood in the northern hemisphere.

"The Northern Bluefin Tuna is under significant pressure from overfishing in the north Atlantic and the Mediterranean," Mr Stehr said.

"The trend towards healthy living is stimulating demand for protein and as it stands now, wild catch fisheries in the northern hemisphere simply cannot sustain the predicted future requirements for protein.

"In Russia alone, seafood consumption is expected to double to 16 kilograms per person per year by 2013, and the statistics are similar for many other nations.

"Clean Seas' development of sustainable breeding processes to close the SBT life cycle is the way of the future. World fisheries experts are closely monitoring our activities with a view to adopting a program for the Northern Bluefin Tuna."

In March, Clean Seas successfully spawned SBT for the first time, paving the way for commercial aquaculture production from the company's next scheduled spawning in October/November this year.

The fingerlings produced earlier this year are being held in Clean Seas' onshore breeding facility at Arno Bay. Now up to 70 days old, they are successfully consuming live, man-made and particulate feed and will outgrow their existing tanks over the next year and will be transferred to sea cages in late 2009 once water temperatures are warmer.

After meeting with industry leaders this weekend, Mr Stehr will travel through Europe and Japan searching for the best tanks and technologies that can be adapted to support Clean Seas specific needs for the grow-out and commercial production of its spawned SBT.

“We have baby tuna that are up to 20 centimetres long and within a year they could weigh up to ten kilograms each, and in three years they could be as large as 40 kilograms,” Mr Stehr said. “No one has done this before, but we are confident of our success.”



“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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