



## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **CLEAN SEAS DOUBLES SBT SPAWNING PERIOD**

Aquaculture pioneer Clean Seas Tuna Limited has completed its third consecutive annual on-shore Southern Bluefin Tuna spawning program, having doubled the controlled spawning period to three months at its Arno Bay facility.

Fertilised SBT eggs sourced from the spawning were also provided to research organisations in three States under the auspices of the Seafood CRC, with larvae grown under the supervision of the SA Research and Development Institute (SARDI) in South Australia (West Beach) and the Departments of Primary Industry in NSW (Port Stephens) and the Northern Territory (Darwin).

Clean Seas Managing Director, Mr Clifford Ashby, said "excellent" SBT hatch and fingerling raising rates had been achieved in Port Stephens, with fingerlings now up to 40 days old with the grow-out program continuing.

"The 2009-10 spawning trials have proved to be highly successful in terms of being able to repeat spawning under controlled conditions; advance spawning commencement by two months from March to January; replicate our success in rearing fingerlings in locations up to 2,900 kilometres from Arno Bay; and extending the spawning period by six weeks to 12 weeks," Mr Ashby said.

He said that despite these successes, the company was unable to grow out commercial quantities of SBT fingerlings from this season's trials, with SBT broodstock now being wintered and conditioned for the 2010-11 summer production run. Mr Ashby said the company would use the winter period to resolve and review operational issues associated with the commissioning of its new \$6.5 million special purpose SBT larval rearing recirculation facility at Arno Bay.

Clean Seas has also secured ongoing involvement in the SBT breeding program with its international collaborators, reaching in-principle agreement with Kinki University to advance its Research & Development Collaboration Agreement to a full Commercial Collaboration Agreement. In addition, an in-principle agreement has been reached for a four year extension of the Industry Partnership Agreement with Seafood CRC and FRDC through to 2014.

"These strategic collaboration agreements are materially assisting the company with its commitment and capacity for commercial success of SBT aquaculture at the earliest possible time," Mr Ashby said.

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**FURTHER INFORMATION:** Please contact Clifford Ashby on 0409 678 037 (M)

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