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Garden Island Lease Grid Realignment

Noise Assessment

Prepared for

Huon Aquaculture Company

Client representative

Anthony Pearce

Date

13 March 2026

Rev 0

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Executive Summary

This noise assessment has been prepared to support an application to vary the configuration of existing fin fish marine farm lease No. 151, which is located in the Huon River, between Surveyors Bay and Garden Island. The assessment has been requested by the EPA, to confirm that the noise related conditions of the current Environmental Licence for the lease - EL9883/4, are able to be met.

The nearest sensitive receptors to the lease are residences at Eggs and Bacon, Surveyors and Randalls Bay.

No changes are proposed to the lease area, only alteration of the pen locations, grid alignment and boundary marker locations. The lease has been fallowed for the last two years and is required to be reactivated again to allow for other leases to be fallowed aligning with standard farming practices.

The lease will be used for a period of approximately 5 months, with a limited number of vessel activities for feed deliveries and fish bathing during this time period. Operation of the lease area will be consistent with other leases operated by Huon in the area. A 300 tonne feed barge will be moored on site for the duration of operations, with feed deliveries from the Huon Supply and Southern Condor II. Bathing operations will be undertaken by well boats, the Ronja Huon and Ronja Storm. Support vessels and work boats will typically travel from Hideaway Bay to the lease area to undertake maintenance or support bathing activities. Feed and well boats will travel to and from Port Huon to access the lease area. No changes are planned to vessels traveling to and from the lease areas, which will continue to follow the approved courses to and from the lease area.

Sound power levels for the vessels have been established from noise measurements made close-in to all of the major vessels utilised. Noise levels at the nearest sensitive receivers to the lease area, residential communities at Eggs and Bacon, Randalls and Surveyors Bays and Garden Island, were established by noise modelling using SoundPLAN environmental noise modelling software.

The results of the SoundPLAN modelling of noise from operations at the lease area, indicate that in general, noise emissions from the lease will meet the requirements of the environmental license. Noise emissions from the feed barge are well below the noise limits for both daytime and night time period. The deployment of this barge is the most significant change from the previous operation of the lease. The noise assessment confirms that use of the barge will not cause an adverse noise impact.

The combined noise emissions from the feed barge and any vessels operating within the lease, or approaching or departing the lease, comply with the daytime noise limits, except when the feed supply vessel Huon Supply attends to refill the feed barge, during which the daytime limit is exceeded by a small margin at two locations.

Huon will plan to carry out all operations involving vessel visits to the lease, during the daytime hours and avoid work during the evening or night time, except in exceptional or emergency circumstances.

Huon will continue to implement the vessel noise mitigation plan for its fleet, which will progressively reduce the noise emissions from vessels in transit and once complete will allow vessels to operate below the night time vessel noise limits.

Taking into account the frequency and duration of vessel visits, it is concluded that noise from operating the Garden Island lease is unlikely to cause a significant adverse impact on the amenity of nearby residents.

1. Introduction

This noise assessment has been prepared to support an application to vary the configuration of Huon Aquaculture Company Pty Ltd's (Huon) existing fin fish marine farm lease No. 151, which is located in the Huon River, between Surveyors Bay and Garden Island. The assessment has been requested by the EPA, to confirm that the noise related conditions of the current Environmental Licence for the lease - EL9883/4, are able to be met.

The nearest sensitive receptors to the lease are residences at Eggs and Bacon, Surveyors and Randalls Bay.

The lease has been fallowed for the last two years and is required to be reactivated again to allow for other leases to be fallowed. No changes are proposed to the lease area (only alteration of the pen locations, grid alignment and boundary marker locations). The application is for the realignment of the existing approved arrangement of fish pens in the lease area to better manage livestock conditions, as shown in Figure 1 below.

The lease is proposed to be used for approximately 5 months, with only a limited number of vessel activities for feed deliveries and fish bathing during this period. Operation of the lease area will be consistent with other Huon operated leases in the region. A 300 tonne feed barge will be moored on site for the duration of operations, with feed deliveries from the Huon Supply or Southern Condor II. Bathing operations will be undertaken by the well boats; Ronja Huon or Ronja Storm. Support vessels and work boats will typically travel from Hideaway Bay to the lease area to undertake maintenance or support fish bathing activities. Feed and well boats will travel to and from Port Huon to access the lease area. No changes are planned to vessels routes traveling to and from the lease areas, which will continue to follow the approved pilotage course to and from the lease area.

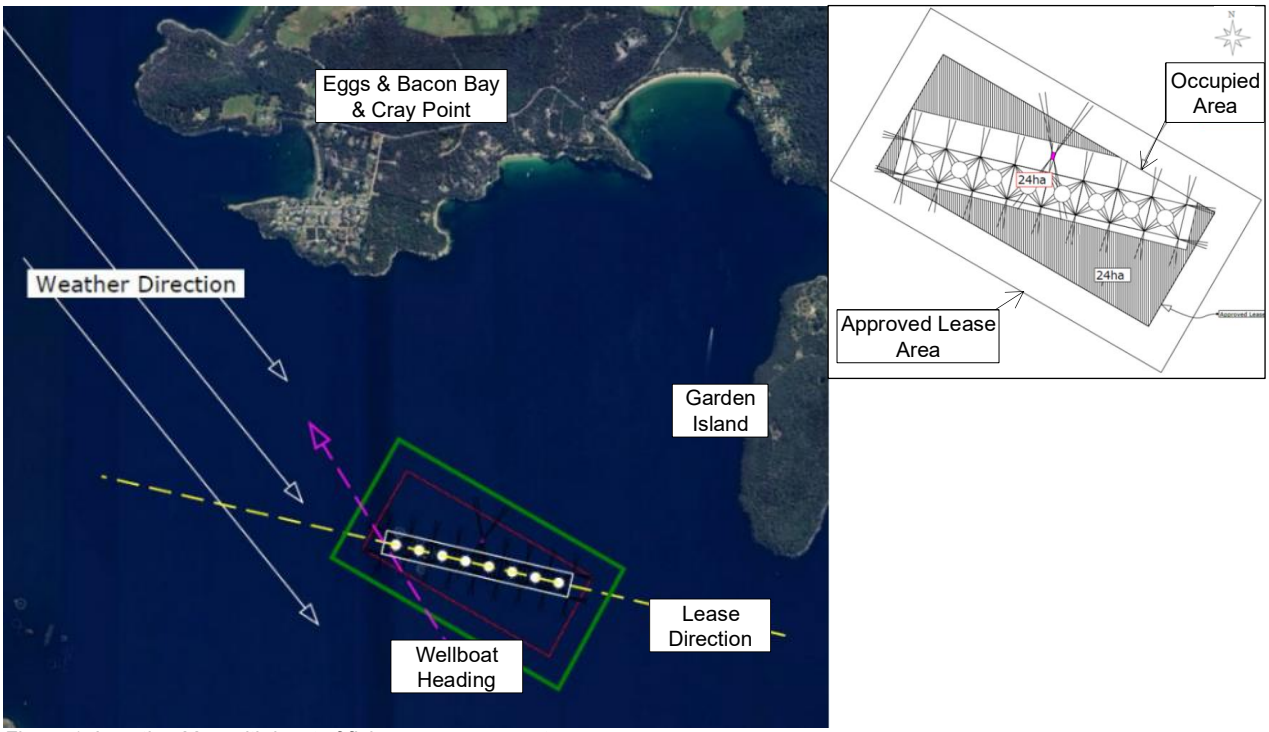

Figure 1: Location Map with inset of fish pen arrangement.

Complaints History

There are no complaints on record that relate specifically to the operation of the Garden Island lease, when it was last operating.

The only complaints on record originating from residences in the Eggs and Bacon Bay area, were received by Huon, via the EPA in April 2025 and February this year. The second complainant kept a noise disturbance log book from April 2025 through to February 2026, noting around 28 observations, mostly at night or in the early morning. Both complaints note

"low frequency humming, throbbing, or pulsing" noise, but specific details of the location of the observations, or any information relating to the identity or location of the noise sources involved, was not provided. Huon have undertaken investigations into the complaints and have not been able to match the noise observations to any of its vessels or lease operations.

It is important to note that the Garden Island lease was not operational during this time.

2. Noise Assessment Criteria

Condition N2 of the lease's environmental license specifies that noise emissions from the activity, must not exceed the following levels at any noise sensitive premises:

- $L_{eq,10min}$ 45 dB(A) between 0700 hours and 1800 hours (Day time);
- $L_{eq,10min}$ 37 dB(A) between 1800 hours and 2200 hours (Evening time); and
- $L_{eq,10min}$ 32 dB(A) between 2200 hours and 0700 hours (Night-time).

These limits are consistent with those specified in Division 6, Section 63 of the *Environmental Standards for Tasmanian Marine Fin Fish Farming*.

In addition, the noise limits are not considered to be breached, unless the activity is audible or if the combined level of noise from the fish farming activity and the normal ambient noise exceeds the limit, but it can be demonstrated that the noise from the activity is less than the background noise level plus 5 dB(A).

3. Noise Sensitive Premises

The lease area is approximately 800 metres southwest of Garden Island and 1.4km northeast of Surveyors Bay. The nearest sensitive receptors are residential communities in Eggs and Bacon Bay, approximately 1.1 km north, Randalls Bay, 2.3km northeast, and Surveyors Bay, 1.4km southwest, along with several dwellings on Garden Island 900 to 1100 metres away. Residential areas at Eggs and Bacon, Surveyors and Randalls Bays are zoned *Low Density Residential* under the *Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Huon Valley*, Garden Island and the Huon River are zoned as *Environmental Management*.

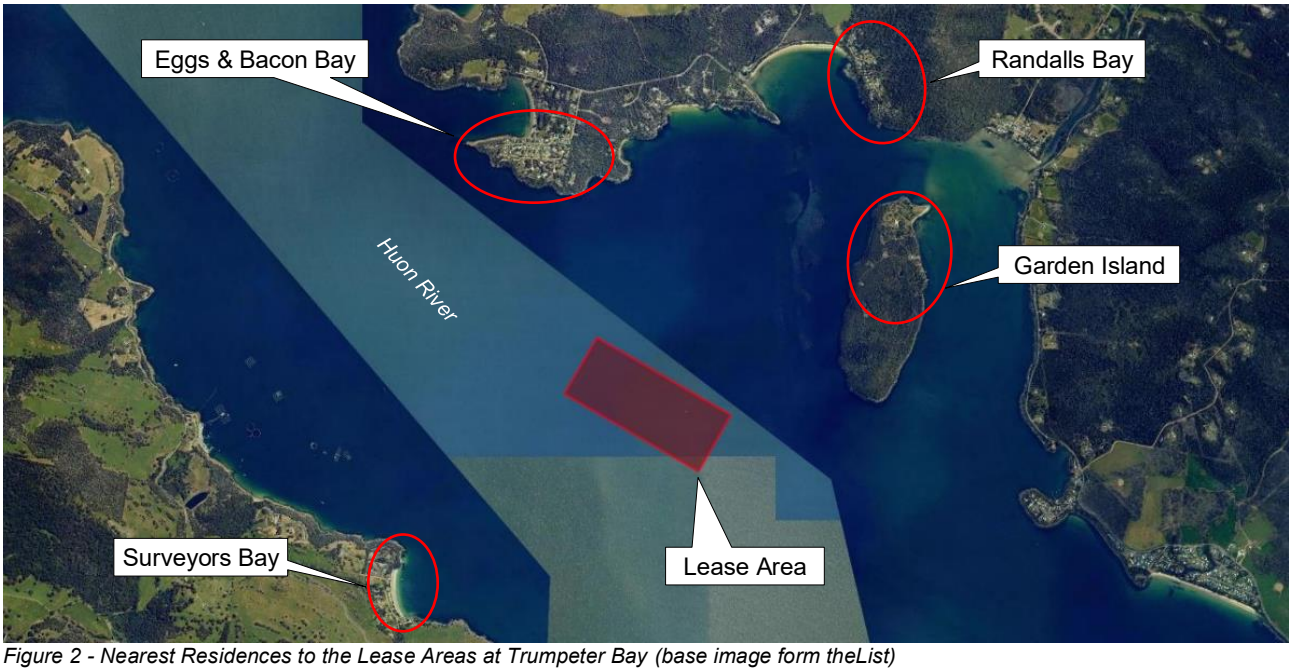

Figure 2 - Nearest Residences to the Lease Areas at Trumpeter Bay (base image form theList)

Vessels that service the lease area are based out of Port Huon and Hideaway Bay and travel down/across the river to the lease area. Numerous residences are located along the shorelines of the Huon River and Vessels pass relatively close to many of these residences, as shown in Figure 3 below. The majority of the area is zoned "Rural" or "Low Density Residential" under the *Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Huon Valley*.

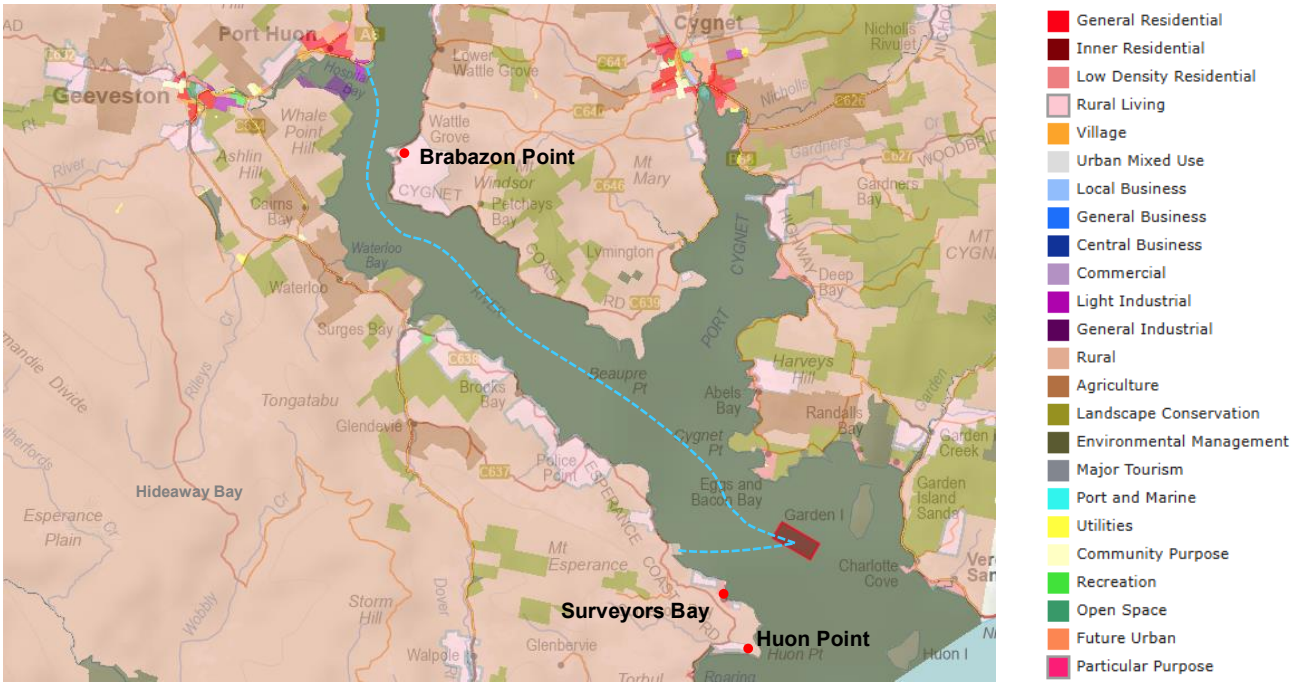

Figure 3 – Nominal vessel path from Port Huon to Lease, overlayed with TPS - Huon Valley zoning (Source: theList). Noise logging locations shown in red.

4. Existing Acoustic Environment

The residences exposed to noise from activities in the lease area or vessels travelling to and from the lease area, are predominantly located on large rural blocks or in small, riverside settlements. Traffic volumes on nearby roads are generally quite low, especially at night and in the early morning. As a result, ambient noise levels can be very low at times. Some locations will normally be exposed to significant wave and wind noise, but even at these locations, ambient noise levels will be very low on occasions when there are low wind and low swell conditions. These occasions may coincide with conditions promoting enhanced noise propagation, such as at night / early morning with an atmospheric inversion present.

pitt&sherry undertook a noise assessment to support a previous EIS for the Storm Bay fish farming lease in 2014. As part of this assessment noise logging was undertaken at four locations, including Huon Point, to help characterise the existing ambient noise levels. Additional noise logging was undertaken at Bullock Point between November 7th and 21st, 2024 and Surveyors Bay between February 20th and March 4th, 2025. The details of the logging are summarised in Table 1 below and locations are shown in Figure 3.

In addition to weather related noise, noise from wildlife including, crickets, cicadas, penguins, Tasmanian native hens, plovers, seagulls, dogs, cows, geese and seals can occur throughout the day and night and is frequently prominent in 10 minute noise measurements, especially at night. Due to the generally lower traffic volumes, individual vehicle movements, many of which occur very close to residences are often prominent.

Table 1 - Ambient Noise Logging Details

Location	Longitude	Latitude	Deployment Dates	Logging Duration Days	Background Noise Level dB(A)		
					D	E	N
Huon Point	147° 05' 57" E	43° 17' 28" S	12/6 – 20/6 2014	8	36.8	37.5	36.3
Bullock Point	146° 59' 10" E	43° 10' 50" S	07/11- 21/11 2024	14	41.0	33.1	35.9
Surveyors Bay	147° 05' 28" E	43° 16' 53" S	20/02– 04/03 2025	12	37.3	40.0	35.5

5. Noise Sources

5.1 Permanent Noise Sources in the Lease Areas

Feed Barge

A 300t capacity feed barge will be permanently moored within the lease. This barge will be the only significant noise source located permanently in the area. Various other vessels visit the lease areas to carry out different tasks.

The feed barge is fitted with a pneumatic feeding system, which utilizes air from blowers installed in the barge's machinery room. Food pellets from the barge's silos are blown through HDPE feed pipes, leading to the individual fish pens. The 24 m x 12 m barge is powered by diesel generators installed below deck in an enclosed, insulated machinery space. One 440 kVA generator will be run during feeding hours (dawn to dusk) and a smaller secondary generator (100 kVA) will be run between dusk and dawn to provide power for accommodation and safety systems. The barge also has two sea water pump stations and a small deck mounted crane, which is operated by a hydraulic power pack.

The barge has been designed to be operated remotely, so that there is no need for staff to reside overnight on the barge.

Noise measurements were made on the 300t barge *Huon* in September 2014, with all systems running at full capacity. *Huon* is one of several identical 300t barges operated by Huon Aquaculture, of which one will be deployed at the lease. This work was done at the Haywards wharf at Margate, during its commissioning.

Figure 4 – Huon 300t Feed Barge at Haywards Wharf, Margate, Prior to Deployment.

5.2 Vessels servicing the Lease Areas

Huon operate a large fleet of support vessels, designed to carry out the wide variety of tasks required to operate the fish farms. Details of the vessels that may visit or work within the lease areas are provided in Table 2 below. Note that these vessels also carry out work associated with other fish farms in the area. Photographs of some of these vessels are included below.

Table 2 – Summary of Vessel Details

Vessel	Operational Use	Type	Length	Engine Power	Engine Type	Crew
Ronja Huon	Well Boat	Heavy Works	74m	2 x 1920kW	Inboard	11
Ronja Storm	Well Boat	Heavy Works	116m	4 x 2250kW	Inboard	12
Berserker	Bath Support	Light Works	11.95m	2 x 244kW	Inboard	8
Ragnarok	Bath Support	Light Works	11.99m	2 x 306kW	Inboard	12
Valkyrie	Bath Support	Light Works	11.95m	2 x 223kW	Inboard	12
Dreki	Bath Support	Light Works	11.8m	2 x 261kW	Outboard	12
Performance	Dive	Light Works	11.8m	2 x 261kW	Outboard	10
Brook M	Towing vessel	Medium Works	15.77m	2 x 336kW	Inboard	3
Southern Condor II	Feed Delivery	Heavy Works	34.95m	2 x 447kW	Inboard	6
Huon Supply	Feed Delivery	Heavy Works	64.16m	750kW	Inboard	6
Delilah	Moorings	Heavy Works	23.99m	257kW	Inboard	8
Cataphract	Subsea ROV	Medium Works	12m	2 x 336kW	Inboard	-
Black Pearl	Wildlife - Seals	Light Works	6.199m	2 x 112kW	Outboard	8
Notorious	Travel	Light Works	11.99m	2 x 223kW	Outboard	10
Titan	Light Works/Bath Support	Medium Works	14.99m	2 x 211.5kW	Inboard	3
Cataline	Mort Retrieval Lift Ups	Medium Works	17.4m	570kW	Inboard	6
Kodiak	Feed	Feed Works	8.7m	2 x 112kW	Outboard	4
Sadie	Net Cleaning	Medium Works	14.95m	2 x 441kW	Inboard	7
Vector	Feed	Feed Works	7.6m	2 x112kW	Outboard	4
Abrolhos	Subsea	Light Works	11.9m	2 x 224kW	Inboard	10
Joan M	ROV	Medium Works	15.8m	2 x 336kW	Inboard	4
Atreus	Net Cleaner	Medium Works	17.95	2 x 441kW	Inboard	7
Vortex	Net Cleaner	Medium Works	14.95	2 x 441kW	Inboard	7
Raptor	Feed	Feed Works	8.8m	2 x 222kW	Outboard	4
Whatacatch	Feed	Feed Works	8.7m	2 x 112kW	Outboard	6
Immunity	Fish Health	Light Works	11.99m	2 x 224kW	Outboard	6
Bondi Ty	ROV	Light Works	11.99m	2 x 224kW	Outboard	10
Infamous	General Works	Light Works	11.8m	2 x 261kW	Outboard	12
Tenacious	General Works	Light Works	11.8m	2 x 261kW	Outboard	12

Frequency and Timing of Vessel Operations

Feed Supply: Due to the short, five-month duration of the lease's use, feed supply vessels such as Southern Condor II and Huon Supply are expected to make only around four feed deliveries. Typically, vessels will leave Port Huon in the morning and return the same day in the afternoon. Evening or night feed deliveries are uncommon and only occur under exceptional circumstances, such as when adverse weather conditions have disrupted regular daytime schedules.

Well Boats: The well boats, Ronja Huon and Ronja Storm, based at Port Huon, operate 24 hours per day travelling to and from various lease areas. Huon's bathing (well boat) operations occur during the day, evening and night as required. The majority of fish handling operations are undertaken during daylight hours, however especially during summer, fish bathing operations occur during the night to meet operational and fish health requirements. The well boats also call in at Whale Point and Hideaway Bay to take on water and discharge harvest fish respectively. The use of well boats has almost eliminated towing of bathing water or fish in lined pens.

During operation of this lease, well boats will access the lease approximately three to four times, once to bathe fish as well as the initial and final transfer of fish to and from the lease. Work boats and support vessel will operate alongside the well boats. Their responsibilities include preparing pens for bathing, conducting mooring operations, transporting personnel, and managing general deliveries. These support vessels will be based at Hideaway Bay.

Work Vessels: General work vessels are typically used for general maintenance, transport, mooring operations, towing, and equipment delivery. They come in a range of sizes, from 8 metres up to 24 metres, and are utilised for a wide variety of tasks. Work vessels operate seven days a week, from 6am to 6pm, Monday through Sunday. The majority of general work vessels are moored at Hideaway Bay in the lower Huon River; however, some works vessels are moored at Pillings Bay and Port Huon to support operations.

Tow Vessels: Empty pens are towed to lease areas for initial deployment, or when being refurbished, repositioned or decommissioned. Tow vessels such as the Brook M and occasionally heavy works vessels are used for this task. Huon endeavours to schedule the majority of tows during daylight hours to avoid noise related issues. However, towing operations during the evening and night do occur to meet fish health/welfare requirements or when towing equipment from remote leases. Pens are typically constructed or refurbished at Huon's Whale Point, Pillings Bay or Hideaway Bay shore base facilities. The well boats have now superseded the need to tow freshwater bathing liners.

Summary of Vessel Movements / Frequency

In summary, the operation of the lease area will generate limited vessel movements. The majority of vessel movements will come from Hideaway Bay (approximately 2 km west), with a small number of movements from Port Huon, spread across the 5 month operation of the lease.

Vessel operations can occur seven days per week, 24 hours per day, although most are typically undertaken during weekday, daylight hours. Well boat operations are predominantly the only operations that may need to be undertaken during the evening and night, but where possible this will be avoided.

Figure 5 - Ragnarok

Figure 6 - Ronja Huon

Figure 7 - Ronja Storm

Figure 8 - Southern Condor II

Figure 9 - Huon Supply

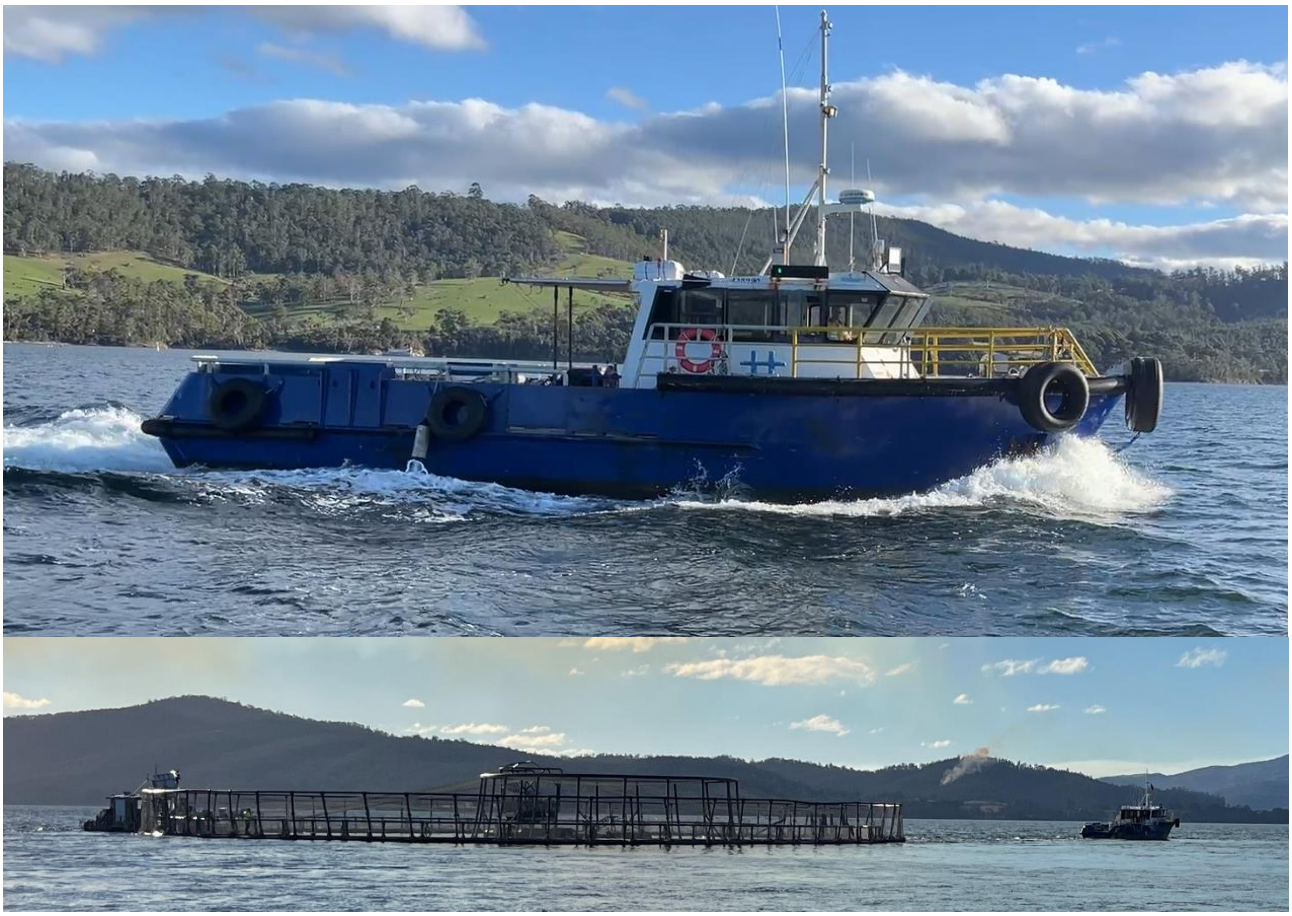

Figure 10 - Brook M. Top: Close up of vessel. Bottom: Vessel towing fish pen.

5.3 Vessel Courses

Ronja Huon and Ronja Storm operate under a *Pilotage Exemption Certificate.* This is required as they are both greater than 35m in length and sail routinely within the Port of Hobart Pilotage Zone 2, which includes the Huon River and the D'Entrecasteaux Channel. Under their pilotage exemption these vessels are required to sail prescribed courses, referred to as "Passage Plans". The courses in most cases, run in the centre of the navigable waterway, which also maximises the distance from the vessel to residences that may be located near the shoreline, on both sides. Other vessels in the Huon fleet have greater flexibility of navigation, but in practice follow the same course, as it is the most efficient and takes into account appropriate navigational safety considerations.

6. Assessment Approach

Noise from Lease Area: Modelling of the predicted level of noise emissions from the fish farm lease areas, at the nearest residences has been undertaken using SoundPLAN environmental noise modelling software and is documented in this report.

Noise from Vessels in Transit: A detailed assessment of the impact of noise from vessels travelling past sensitive receivers on the upper Huon River, near Port Huon has recently been completed and documented in a separate report.[1] Additional modelling of the Ronja Huon and Huon Supply approaching the Garden Island Lease was undertaken using SoundPLAN environmental noise modelling software and is documented in this report

The previous report indicated that while vessel noise sometimes exceeds the noise limits specified in the environmental standard, the overall impact does not result in an unreasonable level of residential amenity or environmental nuisance. Nonetheless a vessel noise mitigation plan is currently underway, to minimise the exposure of residents to vessel noise in the short to medium term and explore further engineering and operational options to reduce the level of vessel noise emitted below the environmental standard requirements.

7. Modelling Methodology

Noise modelling was carried out in accordance with the Tasmanian DEPHA *Noise Measurement Procedures Manual*, 2008. Noise level calculations were implemented using *SoundPLAN 9.1* environmental noise modelling software. Modelling assumptions and settings include:

- The CONCAWE noise calculation methodology was used within SoundPLAN, set to “worst case” meteorological conditions for sound propagation (i.e. a light 2 m/s wind blowing from the source to the receiver and the presence of a moderate, stability class F, atmospheric inversion). These conditions occur frequently at night and in the early morning, but rarely during the day. This will be a conservative setting for the vast majority of vessel movements which occur during the daytime or when the wind is blowing away from the receiver or there is no wind or a strong wind.
- Building footprints were sourced from *theList* and set to a nominal height of 4 metres.
- A ground absorption factor of G=0 was used for the sea and G=1 for the land which is almost entirely pasture or bush. High tide is assumed, with G=0 up to the high-water mark.
- The location of the shoreline, buildings and roads etc were sourced from *theList* and checked against aerial photography.
- Terrain topography was obtained from 5 metre contour data sourced from the *theList*.
- Vessels moving within or near the lease area were modelled as area or line sources and stationary vessels as point sources. Noise source details used are as per Table 3 below. Sound power levels, including one third octave spectra derived from vessel noise measurements were used.

[1] pitt&sherry report: T-P.24.0715-ENV-REP-001-REV-000, *Huon Aquaculture Huon River Vessel Noise Investigation*,11 July 2025.

Table 3 - Noise Source Details

Vessel	Speed knots	Nominal Noise Source Height m	Sound Power Level dB(A)	Distance Travelled in 10 minutes km
300T Feed Barge	-	13	92.0	-
Feed Vessels				
Huon Supply	13	9	110.8	4.0
Southern Condor II	8	7.2	105.2	2.5
Well Boats				
Ronja Huon	7.5	11	102.6	2.3
Ronja Storm	9	16	92.8	2.8
Work/Support Vessels				
Ragnarok	9	0.5	102.8	2.8
Ragnarok	30	0.5	110.6	9.3
Ragnarok – Capstan	-	0.5	91.9	-
Ragnarok – Idling	-	0.5	87.4	-

Five scenarios were assessed for noise from the lease area, usingthe worst case noise sources operating at the lease area:

- Scenario 1: The permanently moored feed supply barge (**S1**), located at the centre of the lease block.
- Scenario 2: The feed barge (**S1**), plus the Ronja Huon (**S2**), the louder of the two well boats, transferring fish or fresh water and one work boat (**S4**) operating in the lease area and one work boat travelling between Hideaway Bay and the lease.
- Scenario 3: The feed barge (**S1**), plus the Huon Supply (**S3**), the louder of the two feed vessels, transferring feed to the feed barge and one work boat (**S4**) operating in the lease area and one work boat travelling between Hideaway Bay and the lease.
- Scenario 4: The feed barge (**S1**), plus the Huon Supply (**S2**) travelling past Eggs and Bacon Bay and arriving at the lease area from Port Huon.
- Scenario 5: The feed barge (**S1**), plus the Ronja Huon (**S3**) travelling past Eggs and Bacon Bay and arriving at the lease area from Port Huon.

Work boats within the lease area have been characterised as an area source, with the capstan operating 25% of the time, travelling (at 9 knots or less) 25% of the time and idling the remaining 50% of the time, in a given 10 minute period. Figure 11, below, shows the layout of the SoundPLAN noise model.

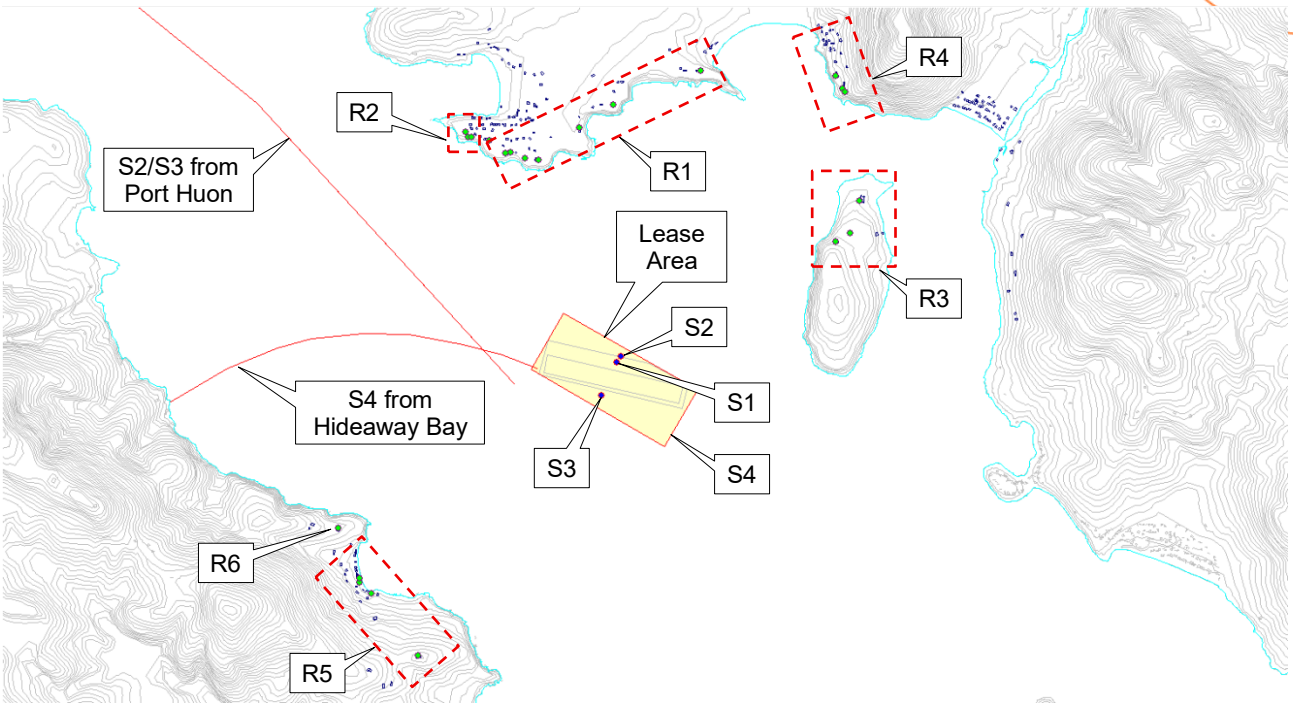

Figure 11 - SoundPLAN Model Layout

8. Modelling Results

The results of SoundPLAN modelling of noise from the fish farm lease (using CONCAWE set to worst case propagation weather conditions) are shown in Table 4 below, including corrections for low frequency content and tonality, in accordance with the *Noise Measurement Procedures Manual.* Predicted noise levels for the feed barge operation meet the required night-time limit of 32 dB(A) by a clear margin. They are also well below the background noise 5 dB(A) levels recorded at all the logging sites in the area.

Noise levels for all other activities meet the daytime limit of 45 dB(A) by an acceptable margin, with the exception of the Ronja Huon and Huon Supply travelling from Port Huon to the Lease Area which exceed the daytime limit by 0.7 to 2.7 dB(A) at Cray Point and Eggs and Bacon Bay, and typically also exceed the daytime background + 5 dB(A) by a similar margin.

Given the short, 5 month, duration of the proposed operations in the lease area and the limited number of vessel movements it will generally be feasible for all operations to be undertaken during daytime hours, except if weather events or other unforeseen conditions occur, that force operations to be delayed.

As noted above, Huon have commenced a fleet wide, vessel noise mitigation plan, which in the short term will deliver reductions in the level of noise emissions from various vessels and once complete will allow night time vessel noise limits to be consistently met.

Table 4 - Predicted Noise from the Lease Area for nearest residential communities - $L_{eq,10min}$ dB(A)

Receiver		Feed Barge Only	Huon Supply	Ronja Huon	Huon Supply	Ronja Huon
			+ Feed Barge & Work Boats		Travelling from Port Huon	
R1	Cray Point	25.2	39.5	40.1	45.7	44.4
R2	Eggs & Bacon Bay	22.9	39.2	39.9	47.7	46.8
R3	Garden Island	20.5	33.8	34.0	37.4	34.6
R4	Randalls Bay	19.6	34.5	34.8	37.2	33.6
R5	Surveyors Bay	23.4	38.3	37.8	42.5	40.7
R6	Surveyors Point	22.9	39.6	39.4	43.2	42.2

9. Conclusions

The results of the SoundPLAN modelling of noise from operations at the Garden Island, ML151, lease area, indicate that in general, noise emissions from the lease will meet the requirements of the lease's environmental license. Noise emissions from the feed barge are well below the noise limits for both daytime and night time period. The deployment of this barge is the most significant change from the previous operation of the lease. The noise assessment confirms that use of the barge will not cause an adverse noise impact.

The combined level of noise emissions from the feed barge and vessels working in the lease or approaching or departing to or from the lease, meet the daytime noise levels, except for when the feed supply vessel Huon Supply visits to refill the feed barge.

Huon will plan to carry out all operations involving vessel visits to the lease during the daytime hours and avoid work during the evening or night time, except in exceptional or emergency circumstances.

Huon will continue to implement the vessel noise mitigation plan for its fleet, which will progressively reduce the noise emissions from vessels in transit and once complete, will allow vessels to operate below the night time vessel noise limits.

Taking into account the frequency and duration of vessel visits, it is concluded that noise from operating the Garden Island lease is unlikely to cause a significant adverse impact on the amenity of nearby residents.

Huon Aquaculture – Garden Island Lease Grid Realignment

Noise Assessment

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