

Wildlife Interaction Data

July – December 2025

Seal deterrent usage

In Tasmania, fur seals are known to interact with marine farming operations. Some interactions present a risk to the health and safety of marine farm workers and to the welfare of the seals. Seal interactions may also cause loss or damage to fish stocks and interfere with or damage industry infrastructure.

Under the *Seal Management Framework 2018*, seal deterrent devices may be deployed under permit by trained staff to deter fur seals from presenting an unacceptable risk to marine farm staff or interfering with marine farming infrastructure or operations.

The level of seal interactions on a marine farming lease and the need to deploy seal deterrent devices is influenced by a range of factors, including lease location and local environment, design and condition of infrastructure, fish stocking circumstances, and operational activities.

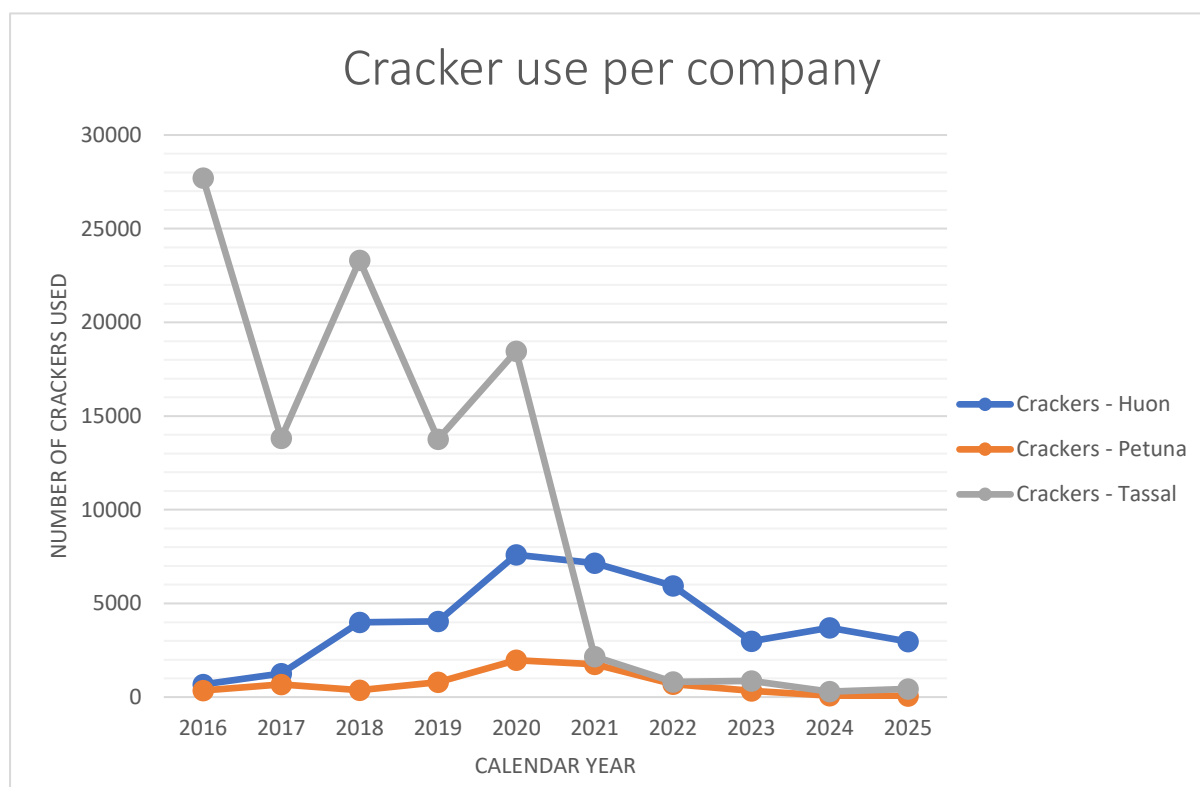


Figure 1: Reported usage of cracker units in Tasmania per company between 2016-2025

Huon Aquaculture – Crackers

Table 1: Usage of cracker units reported by Huon Aquaculture between 1 July – 31 December 2025

Reporting month	Deterrent	Total usage	Regional usage		
			D’Entrecasteaux Channel and Huon River	Macquarie Harbour	Storm Bay off Trumpeter Bay North Bruny Island
July 2025	Crackers	548	21	0	527
August 2025	Crackers	499	33	0	466
September 2025	Crackers	180	8	0	172
October 2025	Crackers	211	51	0	160
November 2025	Crackers	57	3	0	54
December 2025	Crackers	31	6	0	25

Huon Aquaculture – Beanbags and seal scare caps

Nil use reported for 1 July – 31 December 2025.

Petuna – Crackers

Table 2: Usage of cracker units reported by Petuna between 1 July – 31 December 2025.

Reporting month	Deterrent	Total usage	Regional usage	
			Macquarie Harbour	Tamar Estuary
July 2025	Crackers	30	30	0
August 2025	Crackers	11	11	0
September 2025	Crackers	2	2	0
October 2025	Crackers	1	1	0
November 2025	Crackers	0	0	0
December 2025	Crackers	5	0	5

Petuna – Beanbags and seal scare caps

Nil use reported for 1 July – 31 December 2025.

Tassal – Crackers

Table 3: Usage of cracker units reported by Tassal between 1 July – 31 December 2025.

Reporting month	Deterrent	Total usage	Regional Usage			
			D'Entrecasteaux Channel and Huon River	Great Oyster Bay and Mercury Passage	Macquarie Harbour	Tasman Peninsula and Norfolk Bay
July 2025	Crackers	78	23	0	0	55
August 2025	Crackers	11	11	0	0	0
September 2025	Crackers	46	36	0	0	10
October 2025	Crackers	85	64	0	0	21
November 2025	Crackers	0	0	0	0	0
December 2025	Crackers	0	0	0	0	0

Tassal – Beanbags

Table 4: Usage of beanbags reported by Tassal between 1 July – 31 December 2025.

Reporting month	Deterrent	Total usage	Regional usage			
			D'Entrecasteaux Channel and Huon River	Great Oyster Bay and Mercury Passage	Macquarie Harbour	Tasman Peninsula and Norfolk Bay
July 2025	Bean Bags	6	0	0	0	6
August 2025	Bean Bags	0	0	0	0	0
September 2025	Bean Bags	4	0	0	0	4
October 2025	Bean Bags	15	0	0	0	15
November 2025	Bean Bags	2	0	0	0	2
December 2025	Bean Bags	0	0	0	0	0

Tassal – Seal scare caps

Nil use reported for 1 July – 31 December 2025.

Wildlife mortalities

A wildlife mortality that is attributable to salmon farming is defined as ‘mortality caused by an interaction with marine farming activities, operations and infrastructure including but not limited to: entanglement, vessel strike, other infrastructure interaction, deterrent use, sedation, and humane destruction’.

Table 5: Wildlife mortalities reported by the industry between 1 July – 31 December 2025.

Date	Company	Region	Broad taxon	Number	Cause of death
July 2025	Huon	Storm Bay	Fur seal	1	Entanglement
July 2025	Tassal	Tasman	Bird	6	Found in pen
July 2025	Tassal	Tasman	Bird	1	Found in pen
August 2025	Huon	Storm Bay	Cetacean (common dolphin)	1	Entanglement
August 2025	Tassal	Channel	Fur seal	1	Vessel interaction
September 2025	Tassal	Tasman	Bird	1	Found in pen
October 2025	Tassal	Macquarie Harbour	Fur seal	1	Entanglement
December 2025	Huon	Storm Bay	Bird	1	Found in pen

Wildlife injuries

A wildlife injury that is attributable to salmon farming is defined as ‘injury to wildlife caused by an interaction with marine farming activities, operations and infrastructure including but not limited to: entanglement, vessel strike, other infrastructure interaction, deterrent use and sedation’.

No wildlife injuries recorded between 1 July – 31 December 2025.

Seal trapping

Historically, seal trapping was used for the relocation of seals away from salmon farm operations. Relocation has not been authorised as a widespread management tool since 2017 and may now only occur in exceptional circumstances such as animal welfare reasons and to disrupt aggressive seal behaviour towards farm staff. Seal trapping is subject to approval from NRE Tas on a case-by-case basis. Trapping of fur seals remains a permitted management tool that can be used for several reasons, including:

- As a method for removing a fur seal from a fish containment pen;
- When a fur seal exhibits repeated unprovoked threatening behaviour towards staff and marking the individual has been recommended by NRE Tas for identification purposes;

- As part of authorised sedation or humane destruction process.

Strict protocols apply to the trapping and holding of fur seals (as described in section 5 of the *Minimum Requirements 2018A*).

No seal trapping performed between 1 July – 31 December 2025.

Seal sedation

Sedation of fur seals is a permitted management tool that can be accessed by trained personnel in situations where all other measures (i.e. provision of an exit, use of deterrent devices or trapping) have failed in removal of a fur seal from a fish containment pen. Strict protocols apply to the sedation of fur seals (as described in section 6 of the *Minimum Requirements 2018A*).

No seal sedations performed between 1 July – 31 December 2025.

Humane destruction applications

Humane destruction of a fur seal requires approval from NRE Tas on a case-by-case basis and is only considered as a management option in situations where a clearly identifiable fur seal is demonstrated to pose an ongoing unacceptable work health and safety risk to fish farm workers. Strict procedures and criteria need to be met (as described in Section 7 of the *Minimum Requirements 2018A*) for a company's humane destruction application to be considered by the NRE Tas Secretary.

No humane destruction applications submitted in 1 July – 31 December 2025.