Wildlife Interaction Data

July – December 2022

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.

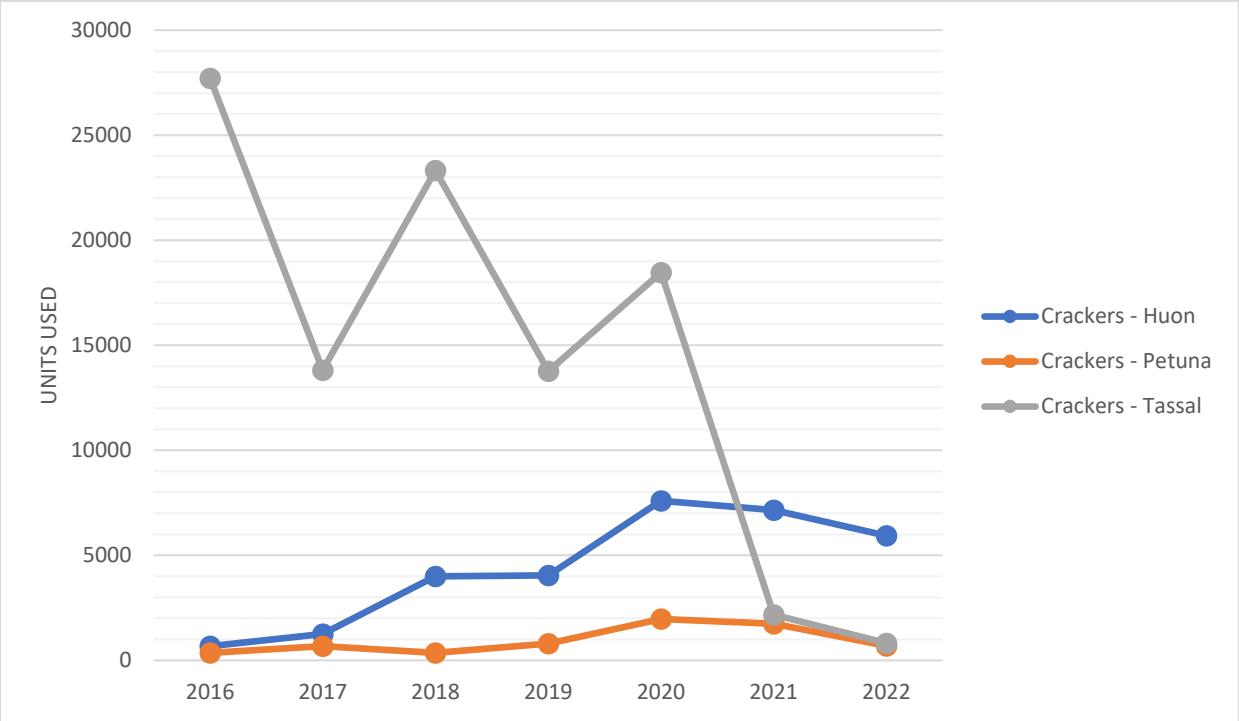

Figure 1: Reported usage of cracker units in Tasmania per company between 2016-2022.

Huon Aquaculture – Crackers

Table 1: Usage of cracker units reported by Huon Aquaculture between July – December 2022.

Reporting month	Deterrent	Total usage	Regional usage		
			D'Entrecasteux Channel and Huon River	Macquarie Harbour	Storm Bay off Trumpeter Bay North Bruny Island
July 2022	Crackers	532	93	0	439
August 2022	Crackers	988	89	0	899
September 2022	Crackers	160	0	0	160

October 2022	Crackers	149	0	0	149
November 2022	Crackers	167	26	0	141
December 2022	Crackers	220	1	0	119

Huon Aquaculture – Beanbags and seal scare caps

Nil use reported for July – December 2022

Petuna – Crackers

Table 2: Usage of cracker units reported by Petuna between July – December 2022.

Reporting month	Deterrent	Total usage	Regional usage	
			Macquarie Harbour	Tamar Estuary
July 2022	Crackers	144	144	0
August 2022	Crackers	61	61	0
September 2022	Crackers	51	51	0
October 2022	Crackers	8	8	0
November 2022	Crackers	0	0	0
December 2022	Crackers	18	18	0

Petuna – Beanbags and seal scare caps

Nil use reported for July – December 2022

Tassal – Crackers

Table 3: Usage of cracker units reported by Tassal between July – December 2022.

Reporting month	Deterrent	Total usage	Regional Usage			
			D'Entrecasteux Channel and Huon River	Great Oyster Bay and Mercury Passage	Macquarie Harbour	Tasman Peninsula and Norfolk Bay
July 2022	Crackers	76	32	0	27	17
August 2022	Crackers	84*	45	0	20	19*
September 2022	Crackers	61	48	0	0	9
October 2022	Crackers	23	23	0	0	0
November 2022	Crackers	9	0	0	0	9
December 2022	Crackers	150	148	0	0	2

*These figures have been updated upon receiving revised data

Tassal – Beanbags

Table 4: Usage of beanbags reported by Tassal between July – December 2022.

Reporting month	Deterrent	Total usage	Regional usage			
			D'Entrecasteux Channel and Huon River	Great Oyster Bay and Mercury Passage	Macquarie Harbour	Tasman Peninsula and Norfolk Bay
July 2022	Beanbags	6	2	0	0	4
August 2022	Beanbags	12	11	0	0	1
September 2022	Beanbags	3	3	0	0	0
October 2022	Beanbags	0	0	0	0	0
November 2022	Beanbags	3	0	0	0	3
December 2022	Beanbags	0	0	0	0	0

Tassal – seal scare caps

Nil use reported for July – December 2022

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 July - December 2022.

Date	Company	Region	Broad taxa	Number	Cause of death
July 2022	Tassal	Tasman Peninsula and Norfolk Bay	Bird	1	Found in pen
August 2022	Petuna	Tamar Estuary	Bird	1	Entanglement
September 2022	Tassal	Tasman Peninsula and Norfolk Bay	Fur seal	1	Vessel-related
September 2022	Huon Aquaculture	D'Entrecasteux Channel and Huon River	Fur seal	1	Entanglement
September 2022	Huon Aquaculture	Storm Bay off Trumpeter Bay North Bruny Island	Fur seal	1	Entanglement
October 2022	Tassal	D'Entrecasteux Channel and Huon River	Bird	1	Entanglement
November 2022	Tassal	Great Oyster Bay and Mercury Passage	Bird	1	Entanglement
November 2022	Tassal	D'Entrecasteux Channel and Huon River	Bird	1	Found in pen
November 2022	Huon Aquaculture	Storm Bay off Trumpeter Bay North Bruny Island	Bird	1	Entanglement
December 2022	Tassal	D'Entrecasteux Channel and Huon River	Bird	1	Entanglement

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'.

Table 6: Wildlife mortalities reported by the industry between July - December 2022.

Date	Company	Region	Taxon	Cause of injury
August 2022	Tassal	D'Entrecasteux Channel and Huon River	Bird	Entanglement
October 2022	Tassal	D'Entrecasteux Channel and Huon River	Bird	Entanglement

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 (e.g. for animal welfare reasons). Seal trapping is subject to approval from NRE Tas on a case-by-case basis. Trapping of furs 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*).

Table 7: Seal trapping conducted within the industry between July - December 2022.

Date	Company	Region	Number	Relocation	Reason
August 2022	Tassal	D'Entrecasteux Channel and Huon River	1	No	Seal posing WHS issues trapped for bleach marking
September 2022	Tassal	D'Entrecasteux Channel and Huon River	1	Yes	Bleach marked seal relocated to disrupt negative interaction behaviour

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*).

Table 8: Seal sedations performed within the industry between July - December 2022.

Date	Company	Region	Number	Reason
July 2022	Huon Aquaculture	Storm Bay off Trumpeter Bay North Bruny Island	1	Seal unable to be removed from pen via usual methods
August 2022	Huon Aquaculture	Storm Bay off Trumpeter Bay North Bruny Island	2	Seals unable to be removed from pen via usual methods

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.

Nil humane destruction applications were submitted in July – December 2022.