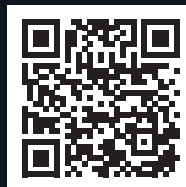


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# Important information about Petuna's Storm Bay marine farm

Petuna understands that we lease your waterways, and that you want to know how we are using and looking after the marine environment in and around where we operate.

For detailed information about our conservative stocking densities, approach to wildlife, feed innovation, environmental monitoring and other important aspects of our farming, please visit [dashboard.petuna.com.au](https://dashboard.petuna.com.au)



*Petuna*<sup>™</sup>

BY PETER & UNA ROCKLIFF



## STORM BAY MARINE FARM

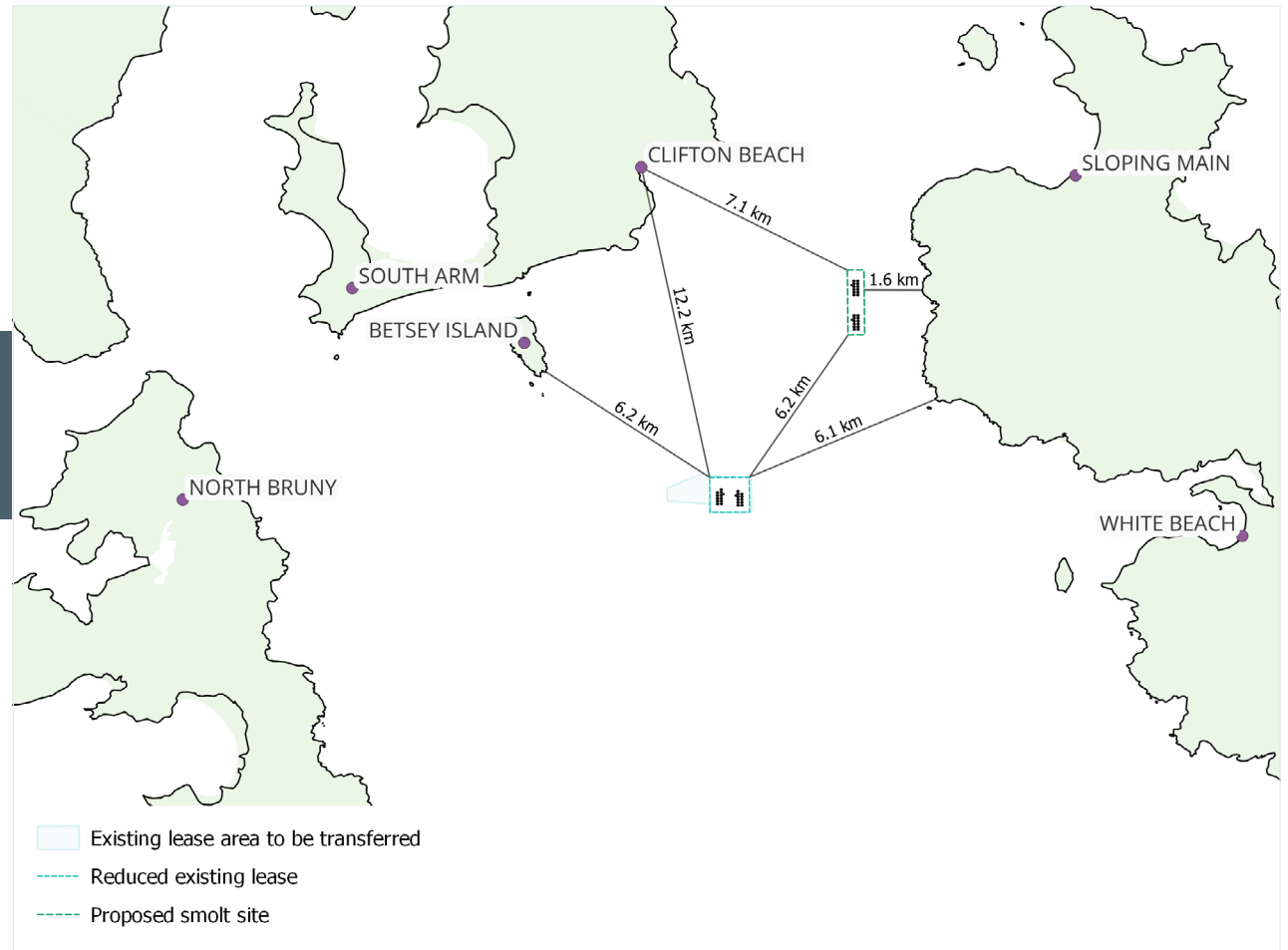
Our Storm Bay marine farm was formally approved in 2019, but the original lease configuration is proposed to be changed to comply with new Tasmanian biosecurity standards, requiring a minimum distance of 4km between fish year classes (of different ages).



View the Tasmanian Government's Storm Bay North Marine Farming Development Plan

We are therefore proposing to divide the existing lease into two sites, with our smolt (young fish) entering the water at one site and growing out to harvest size in the other.

The lease reconfiguration does not incorporate any additional nitrogen allocation (production) or lease area (footprint) than was originally approved. It is a biosecurity adjustment to maximise fish health and welfare as well as provide better outcomes for the environment.



## IMAS SPATIAL PLANNING EXERCISE

The IMAS Statewide Finfish Aquaculture Spatial Planning Exercise considered a large range of marine values, sensitive receptors, social factors and ecosystem drivers, to provide a balanced assessment of areas that are suitable for finfish development within the south-east of the state.

The key criteria included:

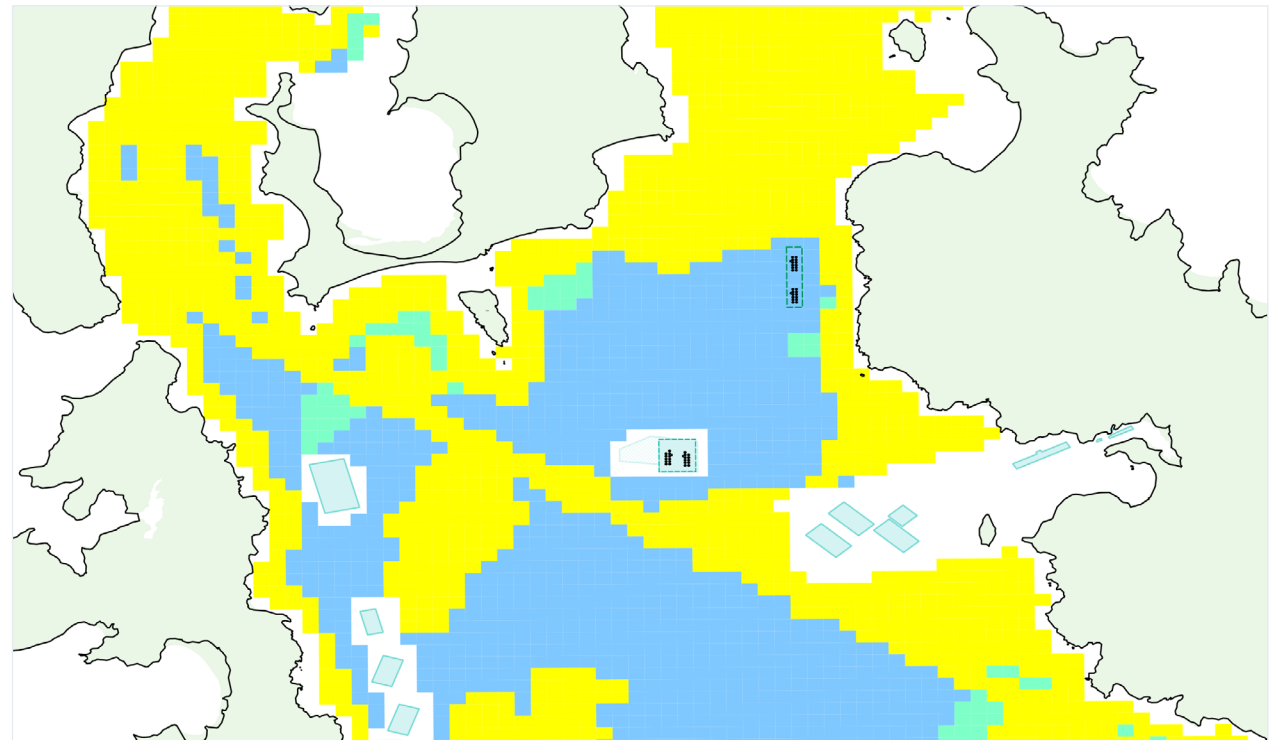
- Distance from residences
- Water depth
- Exposure
- Distance from sensitive habitats
- Wave height
- Substrate (seabed) makeup
- Wind exposure
- Water quality
- Navigation routes
- Shipping
- Biosecurity lease separation distances
- Hydrodynamics
- Commercial fishing areas
- Distance from coastal access points (boat ramps)
- Moorings and popular anchorages
- Distance to high human use areas.

The final report verifies the two proposed Petuna sites in Storm Bay to be of 'very high suitability' for aquaculture, considering all the above factors.



The full IMAS report, updated in March 2022, can be viewed here

This map shows the 'very high suitability' of these areas for salmon farming, as determined by the IMAS Statewide Finfish Aquaculture Spatial Planning program 2021.



- Very High Suitability
- High Suitability
- Other
- Not Assessed

- Proposed smolt site
- Reduced existing lease
- Existing aquaculture leases

Data source: Statewide Finfish Aquaculture Spatial Planning Exercise (IMAS, 2021)  
Scenario 4 - other marine uses, preference given to commercial fishing, recreation and conservation

### *Smolt site*

The proposed smolt site is considered high energy and is exposed to westerly through to southerly storm events and oceanic swells unbroken by land.

While it is 1.6km from the nearest shoreline, it is 4km from the nearest resident, and the marine farm will not be visible from where they live.

The site ranges from 20-25 metres in depth and is comprised of a predominantly sandy seabed, characteristic of the greater Storm Bay region. It is also in a well-mixed water body where wind and swells provide regular water column turnover.

There have been several long-term water quality monitoring programs within the area that show normal seasonal fluxes and water turnover are suitable for finfish aquaculture.

It is intended the smolt site will not be operational over the summer months when our fish are relocated to the grow out lease.

### *Grow-out site*

This site is the original lease location approved in 2019, which Petuna is proposing to divide in two, ensuring it meets the requirements of the new Biosecurity Plan for the industry, providing better following (resting) periods and separation of young and mature fish.

It is 6.1km from the nearest shoreline, located 6.4km south of Betsey Island, providing substantial geographic distance from sensitive land-based sites, ensuring negligible visual and noise impacts.

### *Visual impact*

The visual impact of our marine farm has been a critical consideration in the site selection process.

Photo montage simulations undertaken by an independent visual planning consultant show the visual impact from key viewpoints along the South Arm Peninsula is negligible.

A full visual assessment will be required as part of the statutory process for the proposal.

### *Noise*

Storm Bay experiences frequent, substantial on-water traffic from commercial and recreational vessels.

The nearest residence to our smolt site is 4km away and not in direct line-of-sight. The risk to amenity from noise impacts at this distance is very low.

### *Vessel movement*

Petuna is investigating using the Port of Hobart and Margate as the gateways between our marine farm and wider operations. By using the Port of Hobart, we will minimise our vessel movement across Storm Bay to the northern region of the Channel.

### *Marine debris*

Petuna understands marine debris is a major concern for waterway users and we are committed to minimising debris by establishing a chain of responsibility for any waste that might be accidentally generated. There will be specific control measures for every type of waste produced on our lease.

We use colour coded ropes, and our farming infrastructure is branded for easy identification. We are also exploring GPS tracking of significant equipment to ensure rapid retrieval if ever required.

There are strict regulations for the industry regarding marine debris as well as a special management control for the high energy waters of Storm Bay.



View our visual assessment.  
[www.petuna.com.au/visual-assessment](http://www.petuna.com.au/visual-assessment)

## ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING IN STORM BAY

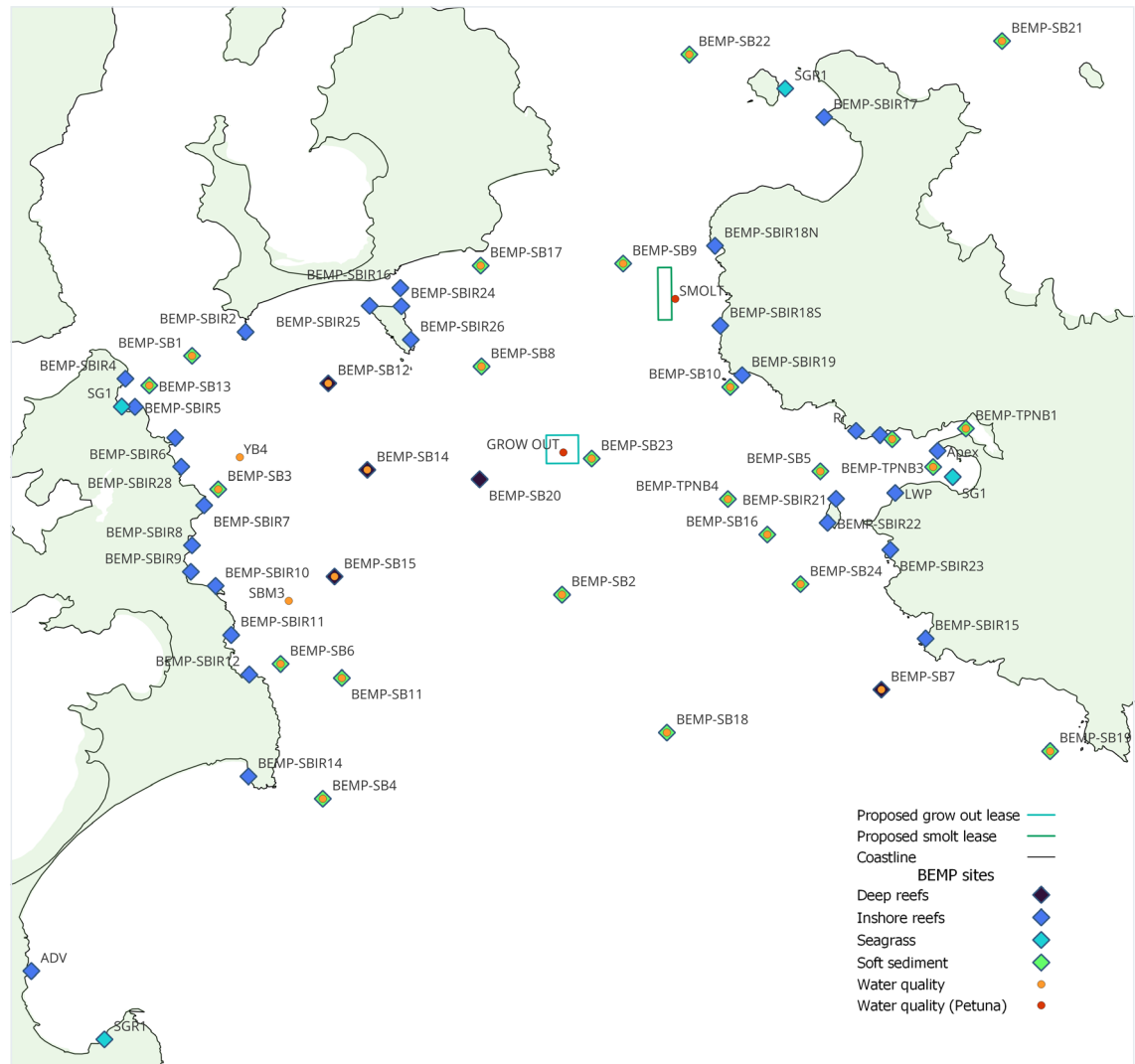
Our smolt site lies approximately 1.5km from the fringing reef that runs up the shoreline in this area of Storm Bay. As with most reef habitats within Storm Bay, the fringing reef is well understood and is monitored at multiple locations by IMAS through the Storm Bay Broadscale Environmental Monitoring Program (BEMP). This baseline work comprises highly regarded and recognised reef monitoring techniques and includes both rapid and more extensive monitoring events, as stipulated by temperate reef experts and government regulation.

The entire Storm Bay area has also undergone multibeam bathymetry (water depth) mapping to identify submerged reefs and other areas of ecological significance. This has further increased the understanding of the system, allowing the identification of areas where underwater conditions are suitable for farming, and ensuring significant buffers to ecologically sensitive features are maintained.

Seagrass monitoring also occurs in the greater Storm Bay area and has been ongoing for several years. Seagrass beds have been mapped and filmed by both industry and IMAS and are well understood. Seagrass habitats naturally exist in lower energy and less exposed locations.



For more information visit:  
[stormbaymodelling.csiro.au](http://stormbaymodelling.csiro.au)



The environmental monitoring program also includes other large seagrass beds on the western side of Storm Bay. These habitats are well understood and continue to be monitored.



For more information visit:  
[www.frdc.com.au/project/2017-215](http://www.frdc.com.au/project/2017-215)

In conjunction with these programs, CSIRO has developed a biogeochemical and hydrodynamic model that replicates the natural physical and ecological processes in Storm Bay, allowing the impact of salmon aquaculture nutrient emissions to the water column and seabed to be tested and understood.

The aquaculture industry has invested millions of dollars in the model to date, and Petuna is set to invest more, to assess the impacts of the proposed change to our lease configuration on surrounding environments.

These world-leading environmental monitoring tools have been included in assessing the suitability of the proposed marine farm area and have allowed science to inform and underpin the placement of our proposed sites.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

At the heart of Petuna's consultative process is a commitment to best practice community engagement, which means going above and beyond what is necessary to meet statutory obligations.

Fundamental to this is the development of relationships with community members based on mutual trust and respect, recognition of mutual benefits and continuing open and transparent engagement.

While we are still in the preliminary planning stages of our Storm Bay marine farm, we are starting to set the foundations for enduring consultation and engagement.

We will be prioritising consultation with Tasmanian Aboriginals, as the traditional and original owners, and continuing custodians of this sea country.



Read our Stakeholder and Community Engagement Strategy:  
[www.petuna.com.au/stakeholder-community-engagement](http://www.petuna.com.au/stakeholder-community-engagement)

If you are interested to know more about Petuna's Storm Bay marine farm, please get in touch - we want to hear from you so we can understand and respond to your views, questions, expectations or concerns.

You can contact us directly at [community@petuna.com](mailto:community@petuna.com)



## ABOUT PETUNA

Petuna is a privately-owned Tasmanian success story, established by Peter and Una Rockliff in 1949. Originally a fishing company, we diversified into aquaculture in 1990. In 2020, Peter and Una sold their remaining 50 per cent shareholding to their existing business partner, New Zealand company Sealord.

Sealord's Māori origins – with a focus on preservation of the sea – made it a natural partner for Petuna, allowing the company to grow while staying true to its heritage.

Today Petuna's core values draw from this heritage, recognising that aquaculture should complement and co-exist with wild catch activities, both respecting the longevity of the natural environment in which they operate.

For more information about Sealord's origins, visit: [www.sealord.com/about-us/our-story-heritage](http://www.sealord.com/about-us/our-story-heritage)

For more information about Petuna's history, operations and people, visit: [www.petuna.com.au](http://www.petuna.com.au)

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