



A Submission to
the Legislative Council Select Committee
inquiring into
Fin Fish Farming in Tasmania

Petuna Aquaculture
November 2019

Introduction

Petuna Aquaculture welcomes the opportunity to provide a broad submission to the Members of the Legislative Council Select Committee inquiring into fin fish farming in Tasmania, albeit the majority of Legislative Councillors, through the offices of Ruth Forrest MLC, have previously visited our operational sites and held discussions with company executives and employees.

We trust such direct engagement with Petuna, and its people, has demonstrated the pride we take in what we do and how we do it, as well as the inherent integrity in our approach to sustainable aquaculture production.

It is with the same sense of cooperation we stand ready to assist in ensuring the Select Committee has access to the information it requires to properly inform its deliberations.

Along with our industry colleagues at Tassal and Huon Aquaculture, Petuna is party to a combined submission to the Select Committee submitted by the Tasmanian Salmonid Growers Association (TSGA).

The TSGA is in the best position to deal with all those industry-wide matters common to all three companies, while in this submission, Petuna's intention is to provide a general overview of our business. However, if there are specific matters relating to Petuna which you wish to cover in your Inquiry, we would be very happy to assist in any way possible.

A Corporate Snapshot

Petuna is a Tasmanian family company whose history dates back to the late 1940s.

Today, it is a vertically integrated global business based entirely in Tasmania. It is the state's largest multi-species seafood business providing jobs to 320 Tasmanians, mostly in regional areas.

In 2010, New Zealand fishing company - Sealord - joined in partnership with the Rockliff family by taking a 50% interest in Petuna. However, the company remains privately-owned.

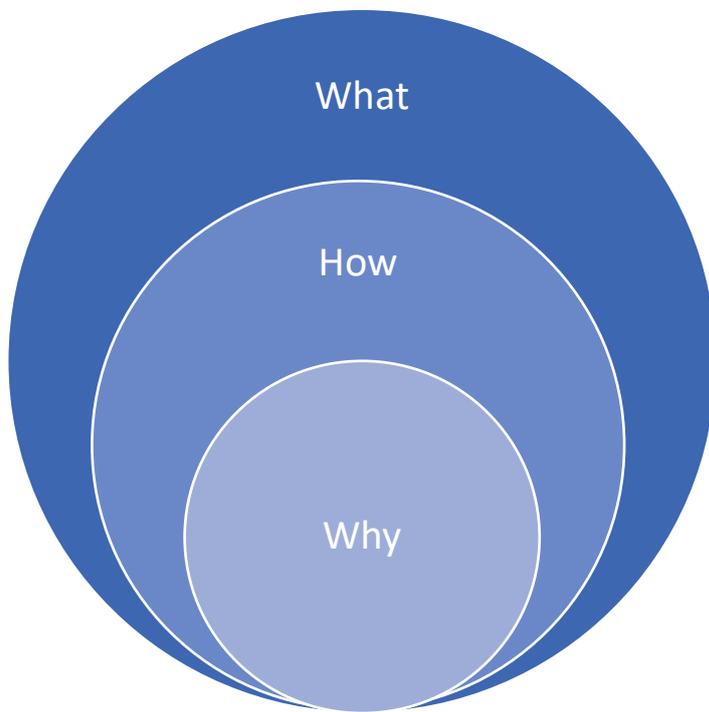
Petuna was a pioneer of aquaculture in Tasmania having been involved in the fledgling industry since the late 1980s.

Our aquaculture operations today include:

- Major marine farms at Macquarie Harbour and at Rowella, on the Tamar River;
- A \$10 million state-of-the-art hatchery at Cressy; and
- A head office, processing factory and distribution centre at Devonport.

Petuna is committed to best practice environmental management and sustainable aquaculture practices.

Our Business at a glance



What we do

Produce the best:

- Salmon
- Ocean trout
- Smolt
- By-products

How we do it

Highly efficient production methods.
Rigorous environmental management.
A passion for, and pride in, what we do.
Innovation, research and development.
Capital investment.
An outstanding workforce.

Why we do it

We are creating a sustainable source of healthy, high quality seafood to help feed the community – both local and global – while protecting the environment

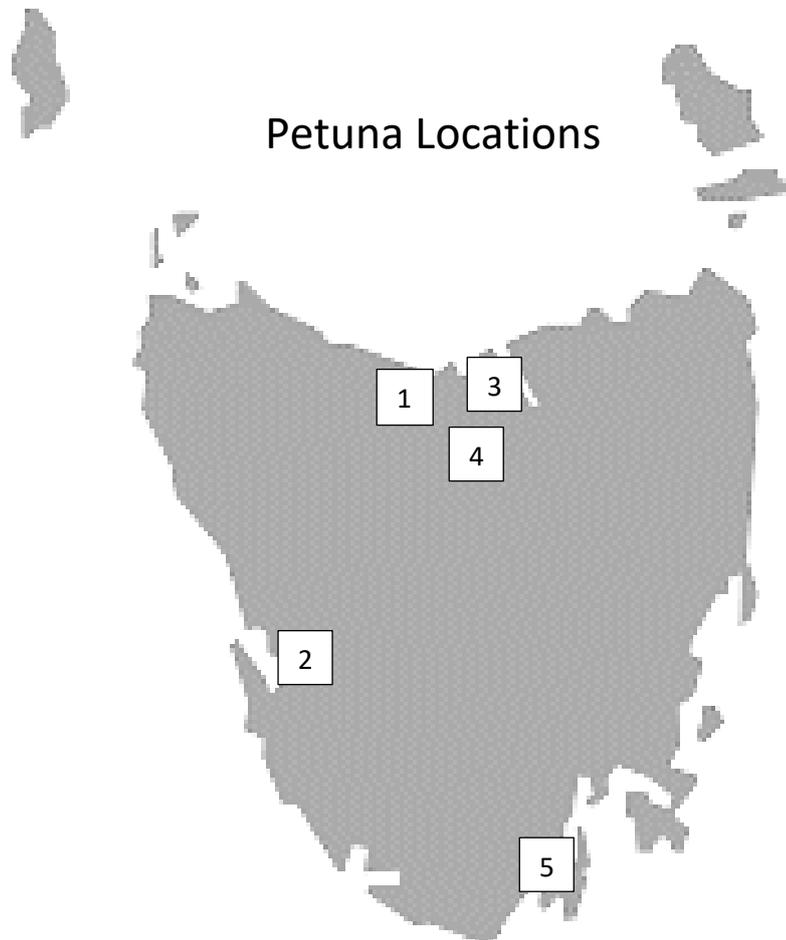
Petuna's Vision

Petuna will maintain its leadership in:

- Sustainability
- Quality
- Efficiency
- Environmental compliance and stewardship
- Integrity and transparency
- Safety
- Community acceptance, engagement and support.

Petuna Locations

1. Petuna's Devonport processing plant, which was originally established to process wild fish catches, is now a 6 day-a-week operation employing 115 people. It processes 120 tonnes of fish a day.
2. In 1990, Petuna expanded from wild fishing into aquaculture by pioneering fish farming in Macquarie Harbour. It currently owns 46% of the Macquarie Harbour lease area.
3. In 2010, Petuna gained a controlling share in Van Diemen Aquaculture at Rowella in the Tamar River. By 2017, it had progressively increased its holding to 100%.
4. In December 2015, Petuna opened a state-of-the-art recirculation hatchery at Cressy, which involved a \$10 million investment. Today, researchers at the hatchery are applying sophisticated selective breeding techniques to produce fish that are better equipped to deal with rising water temperatures.
5. Petuna has a private agreement with Alstergren Aquaculture around the Satellite Island lease space in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel with various farming operations under consideration.



Looking Ahead

Petuna is considering two areas for potential future expansion:

- The company has been granted an environmental monitoring permit to explore the potential for future salmon farming in Bass Strait, east of Three Hummock Island, but with minimal impact on accepted professional and recreational fishing areas. That research study continues.
- Petuna is also undertaking a development plan for expansion into Storm Bay, 5 km south east of Betsey Island, which would make it the most off-shore marine farming operation in the state.

Both projects are subject to:

- Detailed feasibility studies, scientific evaluation and environmental impact assessment.
- Rigorous environmental controls and regulations.
- Detailed community engagement and consultation including, in particular professional and recreational fishers in the state's north west.
- Commercial viability assessment.

Summary

Petuna believes the aquaculture industry is a vital social and economic contributor to Tasmania and, in particular, to the continuing welfare of regional communities.

Aquaculture is the most regulated form of primary production in the state which ensures, among other things, its long term sustainability, protection of the environment, animal welfare, biosecurity and premium food health standards.

It is an industry that is equal to the best in the world.

It is an industry in which Tasmanians can take pride.

Petuna is particularly proud of its operations and all those Tasmanians who comprise the company's loyal and committed workforce and who represent a diversity of specialist skills, ranging from scientists and veterinarians to fish processors and marketers.

And because we are committed to the principle of transparency, we are ready to assist the Select Committee in any way possible to ensure it has access to the information needed to finalise its Inquiry.

It is likely some submissions to the Select Committee may require clarification or 'fact checking'. In this context, Petuna and the TSGA would welcome the opportunity to assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ruben Alvarez', written over a horizontal line.

Ruben Alvarez
Chief Executive