

Australia leads world in sustainable bluefin tuna aquaculture

A European research consortium has reported spawning of Atlantic bluefin tuna – the southern bluefin’s northern cousin – using the same strategy conceived by Port Lincoln-based Clean Seas Tuna Limited earlier this year.

Researchers from the consortium, Allotuna, successfully collected over 10 million eggs from sea-cage tuna broodstock after hormone induction trials on a tuna farm in Italy.

The spawned eggs have since been transferred to a commercial hatchery where the larvae will feed and grow. Eggs have also been transferred to key hatcheries in France, Crete, Israel, Malta and Spain for further rearing and research.

Fisheries researchers say

this is a boost for the fishing industry worldwide, which faces a critical shortage of bluefin tuna. Mediterranean wild stocks in particular are heavily threatened by overfishing.

Clean Seas Chairman, Hagen Stehr, says the European development ‘proves that Clean Seas Tuna is right on target’ with its southern bluefin tuna breeding project. The company plans to continue research on the life cycle of the southern bluefin tuna and possibly establish a tuna sperm bank to secure sustainable production of the species.

In the longer term, it hopes to at least duplicate Australia’s southern bluefin tuna annual quota enabling cost-effective year-round production.



Processing wild southern bluefin tuna: wild tuna fisheries are becoming unsustainable. CSIRO Marine & Atmospheric Research

Clean Seas already has 3200 tonnes of yellowtail kingfish growing in pens in Spencer Gulf. In 2007–08, Clean Seas produced more than 1.25 million yellowtail kingfish fingerlings and 200 000 mulloway fingerlings at its facilities.

The company says that the addition of southern bluefin tuna to its production program positions it to become ‘a major international aquaculture company within a decade of listing on the Australian Stock Exchange’.

Land and sea – lower emissions options than air?

Australia Post’s Managing Director, Graeme John, told a recent meeting of nine of the world’s biggest postal groups that climate change will put increasing pressure on the international freight industry to cut back on flights and revert to sea and rail deliveries.

Mr John said growth in international freight from consumer goods such as electronics had been managed on a ‘just in time’ basis, with air travel preferred to sea and rail because of its speed advantage.

The postal groups included members of the Kahala Posts Group – Australia, China, the US, the UK, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Spain and France – a consortium created to help these national postal organisations compete with private freight companies.

Cape York wilderness area under indigenous management

The federal and Queensland governments have declared 200 000 hectares of the Cape York Peninsula an indigenous protected zone to be managed by the local Aboriginal community as a national reserve, Kaanju Ngaachi.

The land – between Weipa, Cohen and the Lockhart River – is home to wetlands 12 times the size of Kakadu’s

and holds one-fifth of Australia’s tropical rainforests. It includes threatened and endangered species such as the spotted cuscus and green tree python.

Environment Minister, Peter Garrett, said the Caring for Country funding provided by the government will create at least three Indigenous ranger jobs, with more jobs to come.



Green tree pythons are among the species that will benefit from improved habitat protection.

iStockphoto

Flat screens a global warming risk?

The demand for plasma TVs could be adding to global warming, according to a recent *Geophysical Research Letters* article in which two US researchers noted that nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃) – used in the manufacture of flat-screen TVs – is also a potent greenhouse gas, with 17 000 times the global

warming effect of carbon dioxide.

NF₃ is not covered by the Kyoto Protocol, so levels of this gas in the atmosphere are not currently measured.

CSIRO’s Dr Paul Fraser says without measuring the quantity of NF₃ in the atmosphere, it is unclear what impact it will have on the climate.



It’s unclear what impact plasma TVs will have on climate change.

iStockphoto