

**SCS Global Services Statement  
February 28, 2017**

**Aquaculture Stewardship Council Certification of  
Tassal Operations Pty. Ltd. — Macquarie Harbour, Tasmania**

*This statement outlines agreed-upon actions to remediate problems identified at the Tassal MF 266 lease site, and outlines the ongoing process for re-certification assessment of Tassal's remaining two lease sites.*

SCS Global Services (SCS) is the Conformity Assessment Body for Tassal's Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) certification in Macquarie Harbour. The Macquarie Harbour sites are currently certified as a cluster, comprised of leases MF 214, MF 219, and MF 266. The current ASC certification, [ASC-F-SCS-001](#), expires on April 3, 2017.

On January 16, 2017, the Director of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) of Tasmania, Mr. Wes Ford, submitted a letter of notification to Tassal that established a new biomass determination for Macquarie Harbour. That letter, published on the EPA's website on January 18, 2017, included Attachment 2, "Results of the September benthic surveys and management responses." For lease MF 266, fourteen of the twenty-two survey points were found to be non-compliant for *Beggiatoa* in September 2016. The required management response was to destock the MF 266 lease by March 1, 2017. Based on the destocking order, SCS would be precluded from completing the recertification assessment of MF 266 under ASC procedures.

In response to the destocking order, Tassal formally requested that SCS remove the MF 266 lease from the scope of the re-certification audit, thereby excluding that lease in the event that the certificate is re-issued. The two other leases, MF 214 and MF 219, remain within the scope of the re-certification process.

In accordance with ASC re-certification procedures, site audits and stakeholder engagement meetings were conducted during the week of February 13, 2017. Further stakeholder comments may be submitted via email ([asc@scsglobalservices.com](mailto:asc@scsglobalservices.com)). Once all necessary documentation is received by the audit team, the draft report will be prepared and submitted to Tassal for comment and then posted for stakeholder comment.

Specific to the concerns regarding the MF 266 lease, Tassal voluntarily agreed, upon recommendation by the SCS audit team, to cease labeling or making any other ASC claims for all fish or derivative products harvested from the MF 266 lease, effective Monday, February 20, 2017. This recommended action requires Tassal to demonstrate internal traceability and the effective segregation of fish from the MF 266 lease in conformance with the ASC Chain of Custody requirements. As the Conformity Assessment Body for Tassal's Chain of Custody certification, SCS will conduct an audit of the company's internal traceability process from the farm site through to the processing plant and product labeling. This agreed-upon course of action will ensure that the ASC label will be applied only to Tassal Macquarie Harbour fish that are demonstrated to conform to the requirements of the ASC, from the MF 214 and MF 219 sites for certificate [ASC-F-SCS-001](#). Tassal's other ASC certifications remain in good standing.