



# TAFI Media Statement



TASMANIAN AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES INSTITUTE

DATE: THURSDAY 3 April, 2008

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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**DAVID LLEWELLYN**  
Minister for Primary Industries and Water

**PROFESSOR COLIN BUXTON**  
Director, TAFI

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## **FARMING STRIPED TRUMPETER**

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Minister for Primary Industries and Water, David Llewellyn today praised scientists at the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute (TAFI) at the University of Tasmania for their work on bringing striped trumpeter aquaculture closer to fruition.

“The successful hatchery production of high quality striped trumpeter juveniles and their grow-out in sea cages marks an important turning point in a long running program to develop a new species for aquaculture in our state,” Mr Llewellyn said.

Striped trumpeter (*Latris lineata*) is one of the best eating fishes in Australia, and its firm white flesh is highly prized by sashimi chefs.

It was chosen as the best candidate for diversifying sea cage culture in Tasmania in the late 1980's. Despite being docile and easy to maintain in captivity as adults, early attempts to culture the species proved difficult.

Since then an increasingly sophisticated research and development program has been underway to develop striped trumpeter aquaculture supported by the Tasmanian Government, the salmon industry, CSIRO, Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, Aquaculture

(Aquaculture CRC) and the Sustainable Aquaculture of Finfish Cooperative Research Centre (Aquafin CRC).

The program to commercialise the production of striped trumpeter is now backed by the Huon Aquaculture Company, which has fish stocked at its Hideaway Bay site.

“The cultured fish have adapted extremely well to sea cages and have exhibited excellent survival,” said Huon Aquaculture Company owner, Peter Bender.

“The Atlantic salmon industry is now much closer to diversification into new species, particularly striped trumpeter. This reduces risk, and provides us with longer-term sustainability, especially in the face of climate change,” Mr Bender said.

TAFI Director Professor Colin Buxton said it was clearly one of the success stories of the Aquaculture and Aquafin CRCs and could not have been achieved without a collaborative effort.

“The work at various stages, especially the juvenile rearing, has been incredibly difficult and all credit should go to Associate Professor Stephen Battaglene and his team of scientists,” Prof Buxton said.

“We should also remember the pioneering efforts of several others including Lance Searle, Arthur Ritar, Piers Hart and David Morehead.”

“Their tenacity has really paid off, not only for Tasmania in terms of a potential new industry, but also to the sector in general. The research results and techniques developed here have direct application to many other marine fish species and have made a significant contribution to finfish aquaculture worldwide” Prof Buxton said.

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