

COMMERCIAL BULLETIN

Welcome to Issue 3 of MAST's Commercial Bulletin.

MARITIME HIGH FREQUENCY (HF) RADIOTELEPHONE IN AUSTRALIA

A recommendation by the Marine Agencies Forum (MAF) is that jurisdictions (the States and Northern Territory) cease HF radiotelephone monitoring of distress and safety communications in Australia on 1 January 2022.

A consultation period was recently undertaken by the Commonwealth and States/Territories examining the future of voice monitoring of the HF distress and safety frequencies in Australia. At the time of writing, submissions were still being assessed.

The use of HF radiotelephone as the first and only means of distress and safety calling has been in steady decline over several years. Nationally, over the last four years, there were only two distress communications initiated by vessels where HF was the only communication used (none in Tasmanian waters). This has led the jurisdictions, through MAF, to review the ongoing requirement for HF monitoring in Australia.

In Tasmania, Tas Maritime Radio (TMR) currently monitors the HF distress frequencies between 0700 and 1900 each day. It is anticipated that there will not be any reduction in this service for the foreseeable future, even beyond 2022.

HF radio has been largely replaced by VHF radio telephone services around the country, with an excellent state-wide service available in Tasmania that is monitored 24/7 by TMR and Smithton Radio.

For those who venture further afield where no VHF services are provided, HF (with DSC) is recommended. HF DSC frequencies are monitored by AMSA as part of its GMDSS requirements.

GMDSS satellite systems are also available as an option and may be fitted to non-SOLAS vessels.

For updates on the future of HF, visit the MAST or AMSA websites. For information on current distress monitoring arrangements in Tasmania and other services, please visit the Tas Maritime Radio website - tasmaritime.com.au



NUBEENA JETTY

The Nubeena Jetty has been extended 14.4m, providing additional berths for vessel operators to undertake short-term maintenance and loading and unloading of goods and services.



Nubeena Jetty

CCTV CAMERA DOVER

MAST now has a CCTV camera established on the Dover Jetty. The camera monitors berthing of vessels on restricted and load areas to ensure fair and equitable use for all vessel operators in and out of the port.



CCTV Camera Dover Jetty

DUNALLEY JETTY

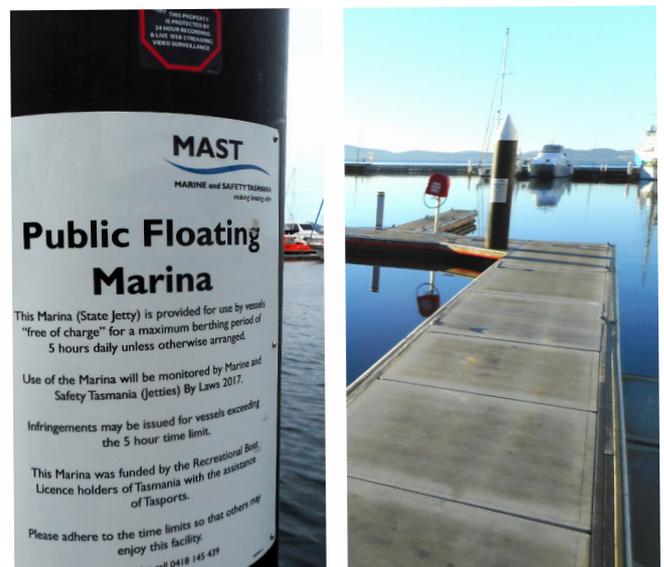
The existing jetty located in Imlay Street Dunalley, has had a facelift with the installation of an in situ concrete overlay deck and the addition of new concrete kerbing, new light posts, power supply and fendering.



Dunalley Jetty

SULLIVANS COVE MARINA

MAST has CCTV cameras monitoring the Sullivans Cove public marina. Vessel operators are reminded that the maximum berthing period is five hours unless otherwise arranged. There is signage on the pontoons to this effect and with the holiday season coming up, it is vital that vessel operators adhere to the time limit to allow other vessels to have access to the facility.



Sullivans Cove Public Marina

NAVIGATION AIDS

In October, aids to navigation were upgraded in the Dunalley region, with the installation of three port and three starboard piles. These piles replaced some buoys and piles that had come to the end of their useful life.



New Starboard and Port Piles Norfolk Bay

A new lantern was installed in July on the Wynyard Rear Lead, upgrading the previous lantern which was installed in 2008. New orange retro-reflective tape was also applied to the lead.



Wynyard Rear Lead - New Light and Reflective Tape

The flashing white light located on Weatherhead Point in Great Oyster Bay was also replaced in September 2019. The new aid is smaller in scale than the old aid and has a new LED sealite lantern SL155.



Weatherhead Light Old and New

CRUISE SHIP VISITATIONS

Cruise ship visitation in Tasmania has increased significantly in recent years as the state's appeal continues to resonate with domestic and international travellers. Between 2012 and 2015, the number of cruise ship visits to Tasmania hovered at around 60 visits each year. Since then, the state has experienced rapid growth with 130 visits scheduled for the 2019-2020 season.

These visits don't just include the popular ports of Hobart and Burnie, but also the regional areas of Port Arthur, Coles Bay, Grassy and Inspection Head, with other locations within Tasmania being considered for future cruise ship visits. This increase in visits has included a number of smaller expedition style vessels, carrying smaller numbers of passengers to several regional locations during their visit.

The growth in the number of cruise ship visitations to the state has resulted in an increase in the amount of large commercial vessels operating in Tasmanian coastal waters during the summer months. All cruise ship visits are listed on Tasport's website under Shipping Schedule.

HUON AQUACULTURE'S NEW WELLBOAT

Huon Aquaculture's second wellboat, the *Ronja Storm*, the biggest in the world, is scheduled to leave Norway towards the end of November on the start of her journey here to Tasmania.

Sea trials were undertaken in late October followed by dry-docking where the hull was thoroughly pressure cleaned in preparation for application of an additional anti-fouling paint (that only requires repainting every five years). She will then make her way to Tasmania via the Canary Islands and the Panama Canal (exposing the hull to freshwater during the canal transit), travelling across the Pacific Ocean. Once she arrives in Hobart (mid January) rigorous customs and immigration protocols will be undertaken. She will be primarily based in Storm Bay servicing Huon's Storm Bay and Yellow Bluff leases.

The *Ronja Storm* is a remarkable vessel and will transform the way Huon transports and bathes salmon to treat naturally-occurring amoeba. This will be made possible through an on-board desalination plant which can produce 700,000 litres of freshwater per hour, reducing the use of Tasmania's freshwater supply, and the wells are large enough to hold an entire pen of fish at a time, which will improve operational efficiency. Concerns have been expressed regarding the level of "pollutants" being discharged back into the sea from the desalination plant; the only pollutants returned to the ocean is salt water, which will always be returned to the same lease site.

Ronja Storm's power generation and propulsion system is designed to operate at a maximum sound pressure of 35 decibels (dB); in comparison, the quietest dishwasher available produces 40dB and an average domestic refrigerator produces 45dB.

The *Ronja Storm* will be able to work in more difficult conditions than *Ronja Huon*, plus its large capacity and ability to produce freshwater on-board means it can do considerably more work when conditions are fine and easier for farm crews. This will also result in less vessel movements through the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and Storm Bay.

TASSAL'S NEW WELLBOAT

This summer will see Tassal's new wellboat, the *Aqua Spa*, start operating in Tasmania's southern waterways as part of Tassal's commitment to world's best practice for our people, planet, product and performance.

What this means for you

You will see the *Aqua Spa* in the Channel and our Southern Zone, plus Storm Bay and the East coast as it services our sites.

What this means for us

Our wellboat will be used for bathing fish in freshwater, transporting juvenile fish from our nurseries to the grow out areas in the most biosecure way, and enable operations at higher energy locations while keeping our people safe.

Bathing is important for the health and welfare of our fish and is a central part of fish husbandry activities globally. Fish are transferred into the wells of the boat to swim around for up to a few hours before they are returned back to a pen. Wellboats can reuse the same supply of freshwater, resulting in a more efficient use of freshwater resources. *Aqua Spa*'s introduction will boost biosecurity while reducing our vessel traffic. We will be applying a responsible neighbour approach to these operations.

Get to know the *Aqua Spa*

Aqua Spa is a closed valve wellboat that measures 84.4 metres in length. Built by DESS Aqua, the *Aqua Spa* was designed with fish welfare as the highest priority, from the design of the vessel to the way it will be operated.

These two articles were written and provided by
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