Submission to the Salmon Review Draft Study Plan July 2026

As a year-round swimmer who was impacted by the 2025 mass mortality events in the Huon Valley, I wish to raise concerns and make suggestions about the Study Plan as it relates to local communities and health considerations.

A group of regular swimmers near Cygnet experienced the disgust that came from rotting salmon being deposited on our beaches over some weeks, and the lack of trust, information and confidence that resulted from the dismissive response from the EPA and State Government and lack of information being given to Huon Valley Council for them to pass onto their residents.

While the Study Plan includes health considerations, they are narrowly focused and do not take into account broader definitions of health and health promotion, including the *Tasmanian Health Action Plan 1; Our pathway for living well in Tasmania 2026-2046*. In particular, healthy environments and places – environmental health, green and blue spaces.

As a result of the rotting flesh on the beaches, and subsequently high level use of antibiotics, swimming was seen as risky, impacting access to physical activity and exercise as well as *belonging, connection and resilience*. These are also considerations in the *Tasmanian Health Action Plan 1.*

Pollution from morts and the use of large doses of florfenicol have impacted tourism and Tasmania's 'clean green' image, and should be considered in the study plan. Confidence in timely monitoring by the regulator is currently very low, and could be improved by more dissemination of information using easily accessible means. This also relates to recreational fishing and public access to our waterways.

Public face-to-face community consultation should be part of the study. Modes of engagement need to have neutral prompts, as the current draft document presents as a 'business as usual' model for the multinational salmon companies.

Consideration must be given to the impact on residents close to salmon pens for noise, light and general amenity.

Please include options for alternatives to current practice including reduction, relocation and alternative aquaculture models.

Thank you for your consideration

Mary Pickett
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