From: [redacted]
To: Tasmanian Salmon Study Secretariat
Subject: Submission
Date: Sunday, 5 July 2026 6:35:54 PM

Hello,

Please keep my name confidential.

I am writing to express my deep concern about the salmon farming industry in Tasmania.

My concerns are as follows;
Untreated waste is allowed to be discharged into fresh water rivers from hatcheries
Why is this allowed?
Who monitors the levels of bacteria in treated and untreated waste discharged from hatcheries and declares what is 'safe and acceptable'?
My son contracted 3 separate bacterial infections on 3 separate visits to River's edge campground, swimming in the Russell River immediately adjacent to and downstream of a salmon hatchery.
Also the incidence of MND in Hobart has gone up and scientists are questioning the increased algae levels in rivers supplying drinking water to Hobart, rivers which also contain waste discharged from hatcheries.

The emergency permit issued for florfenicol usage; base level data was not gathered prior to the use of florfenicol, so how can accurate monitoring be done and why was this permitted?
And then the antibiotic levels were found 10km from pens in sea life.
We live, swim and fish less than 3km from fish leases in the D'entrecasteaux channel and are worried about exposure to this industrial waste, the antibiotics used and the effects on the marine environment including AMR. Why are we risking the native fish stocks, native fishery industries and health of our marine environment?

In shallow bays around the peninsula, the damage to the environment is obvious to anyone, with increased slime and algae in bays.

Then there is the use of the chemical ethoxyquin in feed, banned in the EU and UK, and found at concerning levels when fish flesh has been tested.
Antarctic krill is also used in salmon fish feed.
The fish themselves are packed into the pens, often deaf and deformed and with skin lesions. Where is the duty of care for animal welfare? Salmon companies admitted to harvesting morts for processing during a massive bacterial outbreak. Live fish were being sealed into bins.
Then the morts/industrial waste wasn't even disposed of according to guidelines.
Our native wildlife is shot & deafened by pellets and entangled in the nets.
Plastic from the floating pens washes up on beaches all along our coastlines and creates boating and navigational hazards.

Comparing our industry to 'best practice international standards' - if the salmon industry wants to continue to operate in Tasmanian waters, it needs a social licence and needs to operate with environmental standards exceeding anywhere else in the world.
This would require a guarantee that the industry would not degrade the Tasmanian environment.
Given that salmon farms have been removed from other regions in the world for poor environmental standards, it is very clear that Tasmanian governance of this industry is sub

par as our standards are already so low and our govt will seemingly do anything to keep this industry operating despite the damage it does to tourism, fisheries and our export market. This industry is already threatening unique endemic species, like the maugean skate and red handfish. And as taxpayers, we are funding the salmon industry in its attempts to 'save the skate' by using diesel generators to oxygenate a harbour so that the salmon industry can keep making money. This is the definition of insane.

There is very little transparency in this industry
Financial penalties for transgressions are too small to be a deterrant
Company taxes are not paid
Resource taxes should be high if private enterprise is to make money from public waterways
A fund should be established to pay for any remedial environmental work should the industry fail
Leases should be rescinded until operators can supply an actionable plan should the entire leases full of fish suddenly die.
Politicians are blatantly biased towards the industry and publicly promote it. This should not be allowed.
Marine Farming Planning Review Panel (MFPR Panel) members should also be neutral, instead of blatantly promoting Salmon Tasmania and should take community concerns seriously. This does not currently happen. The panel members are appointed by the governor, on advice from a minister - a minister who is obviously biased. How is this democratic and in the best interests of the Tasmanian community? This just serves the industry and keeps the industry operating with very low oversight and responsibility.

There is very little trust in govt management and oversight of this industry which needs to immediately change.
This industry needs to be scaled right back if it is to continue operating in public waters. and respect the marine environment and Tasmanian community concerns. This is the only sustainable option.
It should be diversifying to move on land into closed loop systems.
No hatcheries should be releasing any waste into waterways.
No antibiotics should be allowed in the environment.
Any industrial waste breaches should be prosecuted with high fines, this does not happen even with regards to the manufacturers of fish feed dumping their waste on land.

Higher taxes on the industry would also fund better independent monitoring of the industry in order to ensure it adheres to regulations.
Monitoring data should be made publicly available in real time.