From: Dee W
To: Tasmanian Salmon Study Secretariat
Subject: Salmon Industry Study Submission
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De-arne Webb
[redacted]

I apologise that this is not how I would have liked my submission to be, I have been impacted greatly over the last week by nocturnal impacts of this industry and am suffering severe sleep deprivation. I do hope you will read my submission. I would have liked to proof read it but I want to submit and after a day of more noise from the industry, I can not do any more. My sincere apologies.

I am a resident living on the Huon River opposite Port Huon Wharf, Whale Point and Pillings Bay. All areas owned by JBS HUON, where maintenance, boats and pens, feed loading, pumping water and smolt, stripping boats painting boats repairing boats, and lots and lots of boat movements 24/7 365 days a year. I have been impacted by the industry for over 20 years and the last five years have been the worst with the last two increasingly worsening.

Future
Grave doubts and concerns over current and future impacts in regard to increasing lease numbers or size of existing leases. Due to issues such as warming waters and ambient temperatures seeing P.Salmonsi made endemic in Tasmania waters in 2025 by the Tasmanian Chief Veterinarian. Due to I believe the volume of farmed salmon in the waterways. This bacteria does have risk of impacting native fish in the same family. The Huon River, Port Huon Wharf, Whale Point Jetty and net repair washing area and Pillings Bay maintenance area I believe where a lot of maintenance and of boats and pen repairs, building of nets and pens occurs. Sees dirty nets and pens towed up the Huon River a tidal estuary to Pillings or Whale Point. These nets would have P.Salmonsi and any other bacteria that might impact farmed salmon such as Vibrio anguillarum in January 2022 seeing the use of 675kgs of oxytetracycline by Tassal, Huon had leases impacted but I have not been able to find how much antibiotic or what antibiotics they used.
The total usage of antibiotics since 2022 (that have been made public) is 11,689kgs from the research I have been able to find. Since the mandatory reporting of antibiotic use by the companies to EPA Tas was only commenced in 2022 and We know that Tassal attempted to have EPA Tas not disclose the volumes in 2020 and again in 2022 as they considered them Commercial in Confidence. It is also noted that Tassal are often remiss, or tardy in getting information to EPA Tas. It seems that this might have been improved on in the last 12months in regard to the mandatory reporting of antibiotic use and salmon mortality. It actually took a further 12 months for the companies to actually be forced to Under the Environmental Standards of Fish Farming. over 20 years it has taken to have the companies EPA Tas, NRE, be accountable and this WAS ONLY DUE to residents actually finding empty bags of fish feed blown across the river from Port Huon wharf to Lower Wattle Grove, that had written on them that the feed contained antibiotics, that was how the people proved what we had known for years. As now the companies deny and lied about it, as they are about impacts on the environment today in my personal opinion and live experiences in dealing with them as a resident for over 20 years.

The environmental impact is as we have seen with Florenicol far more impactful than the companies, the Government departments and all levels of Government implied. Even though many individuals and community groups other marine groups and industries that grow their products like Cray fish, were extremely concerned about in regard to export losses risk if antibiotics were found in their products.

The fact that the company selling the Florfenicol to the Tasmanian Salmon Industry safety data sheet states:-

"**Statement of Hazardous Nature:** Classified as hazardous according to the criteria of Safe Work Australia (SWA)
ADG Classification: None allocated. Not classified as a Dangerous Good according to the Australian Dangerous Goods (ADG) Code.
GHS Classification:
Category 2 - Toxic to Reproduction
Category 2- Specific Target Organ Toxicity - Repeated Exposure Category 1- Short term (acute) aquatic hazard
Category 1- Long term (Chronic) aquatic hazard
GHS signal word: The Warning
HAZARD STATEMENT(S):
H361: Suspected of damaging fertility or the unborn child.
H373: May cause damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure. H410: Very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects.
PREVENTION STATEMENTS(S):

P201: Obtain special Instructions before use.
P202: Do not handle until all safety precautions have been read and understood. P260: Do not breathe dust/fume/ gas/mist/ vapours/spray.
P273: Avoid release to environment.
P280: Wear eye/face protection.
Section 6 - Accidental Release Measures
Spills and Disposal: For minor spill, clean up, rinsing to sewer and dispose empty container in garbage. Wear protective equipment to prevent skin and eye contact. Do not burn container.In the event of a major spill, prevent spillage from entering drains or water courses and call emergency services.

https://abbeylabs.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/AbbeyFlor-Premix-40g.kg-GHS-SDS-JUL23.pdf

If the company providing the Florfenicol additive to pig food that they sold with the DPVMA Department Pesticides Vetrinarian Medicines Authority permission. This concerns me greatly. As a Retired Registered Nurse who has cared for Antimicrobial Resistance patients, I am gravely concerned over the huge volumes of antibiotics that have been used and may be allowed to be used again on the impact to the aquatic environment. I am very deeply concerned that Florfenicol or any other antibiotic is NOT used again in our waterways for the afore mentioned reasons.

As a resident Living on the Huon River and using the beaches it concerns me greatly.
I am also concerned regarding future environmental impacts of this industry if allowed to increase leases and or pen volumes in current pens on the marine environment in and under these massive Fortress Pens. I have concerns over waste left behind ie cement used to keep the pens in position, along with debris found by people using the waterways, and on the foreshores. It was only when community and individuals began to share how much rubbish was being found in the water and foreshores that the EPA made the companies act and do regular monitoring of areas, such as around the Huon River where I live, the Channel.

As of the date of this submission there is no collection of waste water at the pen washing area at whale point jetty area, where pens are washed with pressure washers any day of the week from 7am until 6pm or later in summer, a high drone like a huge mosquito that goes on for hours and hours. sometimes more than one. and similar noise can be heard from Pillings Bay also.

I personally believe that the current way of this industry being in the waterways of Tasmania can be undertaken on land without massive impacts and destruction that will impact many more aspects of the environment. Removal of habitat, trees brush and soil, water usage from rivers or dams purposely built. as at Judbury for the nurseries.
Smell such as I have smelt at night from whale point nursery area when sitting in my car near bye recently while trying to track down where a noise keeping me awake came. from the smell of stale fish. A lot of stale fish.. reported to EPA Hotline, nothing heard from them.

Tasmanian Tourism,
I believe that more and more people who travel to the regions such as the Huon Valley and Channel, Strahan are really beginning to understand that the industry is manipulating to it advantage of what deep sea salmon farming means. I know from my own visitors from mainland when they see how close most of the leases and pens are and just how massive these structures are how many in each lease if a full lease how close to land and residents. They begin to comprehend that the land drops of the island lands very sharply. They have seen the light egress from the pens the boats operating at night. As a resident who like to shoot Aurora and night sky night photography the lights of vessels, pens and equipment and land based infrastructure such as Port Huon and Whale Point tourists are learning the reality of the industry. Many are horrified. I know in my family and friends, that have been and seen them first hand the change in perception to the in my opinion propaganda advertising put out by the industry. As in many other groups you can advertise and manipulate the facts fairly easily in my personal opinion. The likes of Penddicots Wilderness boat trips who have seen the issues and heard the dislike from their patrons, this company used to take tourists up until 2025 to Huon to show them the Pens, experience and then to have fresh caught farmed salmon as part of their seafood tour. This tourism company has stopped doing this. As are many renowned chefs and restauranteurs, cafes in the

region and Australian wide. It is not because of just people like me but their customers potentially forcing their hand as tasmania salmon on the menus was not being sold and costing them, or the owner management made the decision based on their own conscious.

Tasmanian Tourism brings far more money to Tasmania and has far greater longterm potential than the salmon industry. People come here for the imagined clean waters, clean night sky dark night sky to to capture Aurora and I have met many Asian tourists who are awed by our starry night skies. All impacted by the lights of the pens and the nocturnal operations of the boats and machinery in and about the leases or on the land.
I am aware of some local Air BnB's that have had guests complain of being woken or kept awake by noise emanating from Hospital bay area Port Huon wharf or Whale point, the Well boats all alight coming up the river or with bright lights that I have had shining in to my home waking me. I can not imagine how lights impact nocturnal birds and other creatures.
I have had friends stay who have been impacted by the reverberations, the noise of the boats operating at night and early hours of the night sleep disturbed. Made ill.
I suffer incredibly from it. Tourism is far more beneficial to smaller communities for example Derby, a small village that was dying is now a thriving tourism and community.

Many of us who have been living with the issues of this industry that impact us are fed up with public consultations, I certainly am. The company's basically as demonstrated with their own noise assessment released 2026 of their boats movements disregard majority of what was suggested to help residents. Or use the excuse that as in the Ronja Huon a boat that has been causing me sleep deprivation and inability to enjoy my own garden or sit on my deck for over 11 years now. the impacts of this boat are actually worse now far worse. The Ronja Storm is a bit better but still impacts me. Newer vessels to Huon such as Huon supply is a nightmare, as are many many of the other boats. It is so bad for me I have had to leave my home to get restorative sleep and get my health physically cognitively and mentally to a more normal level just to be able to live in my home and live my life. I have basically given up on being on my deck any time of the day or in my garden, I do not find the wearing of noise cancelling head phones easy when garnering or playing with my dogs.
Inside my home is not better as the reverberations and impacts are horrendous sas they are right now as I am attempting to complete my submission on only under 20 hours of sleep since Tuesday 30/06/2026. I have only been home two weeks having had to leave for a week to get my health back to a level I can keep living in my home.
This is due to frequency noises during the night from Port Huon Wharf where they repair their fleet of boats, sanding/grinding/ marine paint. Allowed to do so 24/7 complaints to Huon Valley Council who oversea the wharf achieves little. I document record and have never been asked for any evidence since I have stopped sending it with my emails, Epa Tas is responsible for Whale Point and I believe Pillings Bay. I hear nothing from them, if I call their hotline to complain, email to follow up or just email. Zero. i guess after 20 years of complaining Im just put into a file because there are more and more complaints. In my lived experience the noise, from the vessels and activities night and day are far worse in the last five years than in the past. More boats, more trucks on the highway moving at night, delivery feed and unloading on the wharf.
So many issues regarding the onshore facilities in this are.

One of the most weird things is who is overseeing which areas . Port Huon Wharf is overseen by Huon Valley Council(HVC), Whale point across the opposite side of Hospital Bay is overseen by EPA Tas. when dealing with noise issues light issues, it is hard as a resident impacted because I did not know if HVC passes on the issues to EPA Tas. Because it is hard for each one to get a true impact of the noise light reverberation ect impacts on people such as me if they are only seeing one area. I have resolved it to include both in any correspondence.

Doing this has achieved little as the noise, frequency of noise light, reverberation impacts on my physical, cognitive and mental health are high. As on many other residents in the areas where these leases are operating and the fear of those who currently have empty leases near them. The volume of boat traffic is growing, as is the impacts. The health impacts are being reported to GP's in the area.

The impacts on recreational fishers is high, as is the impact on recreational visitors to beaches to swim, or just escape the noise impacting their home to find that boats are operating near, going to or from leases.
It is almost impossible in the huon River the Channel to escape salmon pens and activities.
It is getting harder and harder to find peaceful quiet places not impacted by movements of Aquaculture boats, or the pens/leases. Communities are impacted due to those employed by the industry or secondary business whose income and employees are reliant on a fair proportion of income from the industry, over those like me whose life and ability to live in my home and when I was working be refreshed to do my job as I was paid too.

the sleep deprivation and ongoing inability to rest and enjoy my garden or home over time did impact my employers. It impacts my relationships, Sleep deprivation and no respite impacts me I am very irritable, easily annoyed. I am not happy with the person the impacts of this industry are creating in me. Which is why over the last 18 months I have left my home 6 times at least for a week to get back who I am for a while I dont have to wear earplugs to sleep take sleep medication and still be woken, or have white noise playing. I am being forced to seriously look at moving. I can not afford it but my health and life are not being taken seriously by the organisations that should be caring and have a duty of care for the communities and people impacted by this industry.

Public release of information papers and preliminary findings before conclusions are finalised is extremely important to me. Along with no redactions. So much is often redacted in such collections of submissions. to the point that some submissions been shared are not worth being shared. Usually from the company/invested parties. From my personal previous experience. The time given for the industry to provide figures and for these figures to be released to the public such as mort figures. It is 2026 this would be computerised, the companies KNOW how many salmon they loose at every level nursery to adult. Its money to them. Income profit so how difficult is it to email this to the EPA once a month. It should then be a simple matter for the numbers to be uploaded on the EPA website monthly rather than quarterly.
EPA website and NRE are horrendous for average people to locate information. they are not user friendly. Data that is provided is often lacking such as total morts with no actual location and mort number for each area.
Penalties for the companies are low incredibly low when they breach their environmental and legislative responsibilities . The environmental impacts have potential to be ongoing for a long time. The fines are slap on the hand for these large multinational corporations. Have they actually ever completely paid them and what are the consequences apart from a fine. Seems zero.

The impacts on the local regions where Leases and pens are operating or have operated show clearly that degradation is occurring, that the large fortress pens are not stopping food waste, and anything that is fed to the salmon ie antibiotics or other medicated feed is going into the marine environment which causes me great concern over threatened species and their habitats. we have seen how these companies have treated protected marine animals such as seals. Deaths are still happening in the fortress pens, birds 92cormorants were killed in or bye Tassal in 2024/25. no figures for Huon that I can find, other sea birds have been killed and or trapped in the nets about the pens, some slowly dying from dehydration, broken legs wings, slow painful deaths. Seals are still dying and being injured 108 seal deaths reported in the past 7years(23 in the years 2023/25). 7 dolphins in the last two years. these are the reported ones. We do not know if this is the real numbers. Given so often the companies history of lying for me I find it difficult to accept these are the true numbers.

Which makes me deeply concerned for the Red Hand Fish and the Maugean Skate. Like almost everything that occurs in this industry it is only the public that have brought all the newish mandatory reporting about by lodging concerns and sharing with media often through other parties of community organisations. Or on social media or via political representatives. The track record of this industry being transparent and honest is very poor. We see that with Tassal and the antibiotic reporting attempts to stop public release. There tardiness in reporting deaths of salmon. I have personally given up reporting complaints regarding noise to the company that is impacting me so badly as they and the council have gaslit me that I am the only person complaining (even though I know I am not). Many examples of this. in dealing with the industry personally.

I am deeply angered by the very poor management of the mass deaths of the waste from the companies. The results see salmon that was supposed to be composted but was not now rotting and de-composing in/on agricultural land very close to runoff and waterways. Very poor for a Controlled waste!

Tasmanian EPA and NRE seem to have to make policies/legislation on the run! In this case of firstly the use of antibiotics such as Florfenicol and the unknown potential inpact and the antibiotic ridden(I assume with oxytetracycline which is a broad based antibiotic, that IS USED in treating humans and animals) at that time because it had to be the antibiotic being used as Florfenicol was not requested until November 2025. So this broad based antibiotic is escaping into the environment which I assume is as impactful as Florfenicol on the aquatic environment and aquatic life.

My personal experience with the regulatory bodies/system EPA Tas, Huon Valley Council Chief Veterinarian Department Of health Minister and CEO. Liberal labor and greensState and Federal Ministers is very very poor in recent times as in the 2024-26. With lodging complaints regarding noise and life impacts, and being either gaslit or ignored. (I

I have lost all respect for EPA Tas, after requesting Huon to undertake noise assessments of their vessels, but allowing Huon to self assess??
This brings me to the importance of any assessments being undertaken in regard to issues with community residents, individuals to be undertaken by truely independent assessors, not chosen/employed by the company. There needs to be legislation to ensure that the report when released is acted upon by the companies. As again my experience is that they basically do the assessment to meet the base level of EPA Tas requirements.

The lack of transparency is demonstrated in way to many examples in regard to the EPA, to the companies themselves. that trust any honest transparent information being released in a timely manner is managed by the companies not EPA Tas and I bring in an outside example of this with another issue in Tasmania with Nystar. EPA Tas had written a report to have stricter lead controls and stronger emission monitoring but pushback from Nystar the stricter proposals were shelved. I fear that the Tasmanian Salmon Industry has/is capable of having will do this push back too.

With the inability of the public to get RTI that is often with no redactions or major redactions that make actually gaining facts almost impossible, due to the use of commercial in confidence makes trust in any of the EPA actions and other departments. Or there transparency.
I have had experience where sound recording was being done at my home that the EPA had told the companies where, when and how long the recorders were being left. You can probably guess what occurred.
I also requested the report in regard to the noise monitoring but no matter how often was not provided. I have given up having noise monitoring undertaken by the EPA, as any information I have been provided is well yes there is some issue but its hard to really know.

I believe that any political candidate current or wanting to stand should have to declare if any interest/investment/income is derived in this industry. I believe that all donations of money or gifts to party for lobbying or fundraising for functions has to be declared prior to election.

I believe the EPA does not have the power to meet or act in the people impacted by this industries interests.

I am very concerned regarding the welfare of the actual salmon that are being raised and created by the companies. The triploid salmon that have been in the Tasmania farms have high incidents of skeletal malformation, increased risk of heart defects increased risk of getting diseases, are sexless so they grow faster and bigger. I believe that currently Research and Development areas of breeding in Tasmanian Salmon Industry are trying to create then breed a salmon that will be resistant to P.Salmonis, when you look at the welfare issues in regard to how triploid salmon are impacted I have to wonder at what these next created salmon will have to endure to live to become food for tables. If these were land based animals on farms the public out cry would be immense!
As they are under water generally and pumped in an out of vessels the only people actually seeing them are the employees. It is because of advances in Technology the public/groups has been able to show the so often the facts behind the gloss of this industry. Via drones, ect.

Thank You
De-arne Webb