From: Peter Blackwell
To: Tasmanian Salmon Study Secretariat
Subject: draft Salmon Study Plan
Date: Sunday, 5 July 2026 9:28:51 PM

I write to request that you make the Salmon Study Plan more effective by making the following changes to the published Draft Study Plan.

Topic #1: The description of this topic includes the 'Contributions to global and local demand for protein' and 'Role [of salmon farming] in food security'. Correct this to read "Impacts on global and local supply of protein" and "Impact of salmon farming on food security". Salmon is an expensive, luxury product obtained by inefficiently feeding protein to a species high in the food chain. Producing salmon requires using much more protein than it produces. To produce farmed salmon also requires intensive fossil fuel consumption to build and service the pens, transport young salmon in water tanks between remotely positioned facilities, manufacture the feed, etc., all to harvest less than 40% of the grown salmon, as over 60% die in the pens, are extracted by giant vacuum pumps and then are trucked to disposal sites halfway across the state. The salmon feed comprises harvested wild fish, at a cost to wild fisheries and natural ecosystems.

Topic #2: Examine the environmental impacts of current disposal methods for the large quantities of salmon that die before being harvested. Also examine the carbon emissions of this very inefficient industry, the impacts on marine and freshwater (polluted by effluent, chemicals and antibiotics from 'instream' hatcheries) habitat, threatened species, other fisheries, recreation, tourism, general amenity and quality of life.

Topic #3: Examine health impacts on the insecurely engaged workers in the salmon industry, quantifying injuries to workers who operate through night shifts in dangerous conditions with poorly maintained equipment. Examine health impacts on 'neighbours' who live kilometers away across still water but have sleepless nights due to noisy operations through the night; and those harassed or targeted for complaining. Examine health impacts of algal blooms, jellyfish explosions, massive antibiotic use risking producing and spreading antibiotic resistance, rendering water-based recreation a health hazard. Examine the impacts of the industry on the animal welfare and health of farmed salmon and wildlife in proximity to salmon farming. This industry is based on more than half of the farmed animals dying agonising deaths before they can be harvested, and deafening, shooting, 'relocating', poisoning and otherwise impacting wildlife. Please examine the animal welfare aspects of this industry, including how it is regulated.

Topic #4: Closely examine the resourcing, skill sets and transparency of the regulation of the salmon industry.

Topic #5: Closely examine the cost of the salmon industry to citizens, the economy and taxpayers of lost quality of life, health impacts (as described above), road damage, government supplied aeration of the Macquarie Harbour salmon pens, carbon emissions, fouling of our rivers and freshwater supplies, subsidies, peppercorn permits, royalties and (almost non-existent) taxes.

Topic #6: Please provide resources, support and ample opportunity for members of the Palawa community to provide input to this study.

Yours sincerely

Peter Blackwell