Independent Study of the Tasmanian Salmon Industry

July 2026

[redacted]

Submission on the Draft Study Plan

I am a resident of [redacted]. I request to be formally registered as a stakeholder for all future consultation, engagement and submission opportunities.

I also request that my name and personal details remain confidential in all public-facing documents, reports and consultation summaries.

1. **Noise impacts on community amenity**

The Draft Study Plan does not address noise pollution from freshwater hatcheries, despite the Terms of Reference requiring assessment of impacts on associated communities.

Residents in the Russell River valley are exposed to continuous 24-hour noise, including heavy machinery and industrial operations that echo through the valley. This is a significant and ongoing community impact affecting sleep, wellbeing and the ability to live safely in a rural residential area.

The Study Plan should include independent acoustic monitoring, expert assessment of chronic noise exposure, and a dedicated inquiry into freshwater hatchery noise impacts.

2. **Regulatory transparency and enforcement failures**

Despite repeated contact with EPA Tasmania, Huon Valley Council, the Environmental Defenders Office and Huon Aquaculture, no investigation has been conducted into noise impacts. EPA staff have stated they do not have the equipment required to assess noise at the site.

This raises a fundamental issue: How can a regulatory body ensure compliance when it cannot investigate?

The Study must examine regulatory capacity, transparency, reliance on operator self-reporting, and the absence of independent verification of community complaints.

3. **Environmental impacts on wildlife (aquatic and terrestrial)**

Current operations are already affecting local wildlife, and these impacts are not acknowledged in the Draft Study Plan.

Continuous noise, vibration and heavy machinery activity influence not only waterways but also land-based species, including burrowing animals whose behaviour and habitat stability are sensitive to ground vibration.

These impacts must be assessed alongside aquatic effects such as water quality, discharge, and habitat disruption. The Study should include independent ecological monitoring and expert evaluation of noise-related/vibration disturbance to both aquatic and terrestrial species.

4. **If noise cannot be controlled now, it cannot be controlled with expansion**

The operator has been unable to manage noise impacts under the current scale of operations. Residents already experience unacceptable levels of continuous industrial noise.
It is unreasonable to assume that a larger, more intensive facility will produce *less* noise or become more manageable. Expansion means more machinery, more infrastructure, longer operating hours and higher production volumes — all of which increase noise.
If noise impacts are not controlled now, they will only intensify with expansion. This is a critical risk that must be addressed before any approval is considered.

5. **Parallel approval processes**

Huon Aquaculture's proposed expansion is progressing through EPA and Council processes before the Study's findings will be available. This risks repeating past regulatory failures and undermines the Study's purpose.
I ask the Study Panel to liaise with EPA Tasmania to ensure major approvals are not finalised ahead of the Study's recommendations.

Request for Stakeholder Registration and Confidentiality

Please register me as a stakeholder and notify me of all future submission rounds, hearings, community forums and expert sessions relating to freshwater hatcheries, noise impacts and regulatory adequacy.
I also request that my name and identifying details remain confidential in all public documentation associated with this Study.
I am available to provide documentation of noise impacts and correspondence with regulators.

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