

GAA/FIN 116

Kerry Johnstone

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29 November 2019

Mr Stuart Wright  
Inquiry Secretary  
Parliament House, HOBART 7000  
[finfish@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:finfish@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Submission to Legislative Council Sessional Committee Government Administration A -Sub-Committee - Fin Fish Farming in Tasmania Inquiry

Dear Mr Wright

I have been sailing on the Derwent River and in the Channel since 1980. In that time I have seen the expansion of fish farms.

I have also seen the once common seabirds disappear. Gannets, terns, shearwaters, skuas, and now we rarely see little penguins.

I have also noticed the loss of snapping shrimps and the underwater vegetation is covered in a slimy growth. There have been occasional blooms of jelly fish.

Recreational fishermen talk about no longer catching fish. I have read that wild caught fish are also used to make pellets used in farmed fish food.

I have retrieved items from fish farms which have escaped, often in difficult windy conditions and there is fear among vessel owners they will become entangled in or hit these objects causing danger to their vessels or even loss of life.

Fish farms are an inconvenience to the boating community but destroying a nice environment is a major concern.

There is talk about moving fish farms on to land but there will still be the problem of space and waste associated with this industry.

This industry could do much better.

I endorse the following recommendations by the Tasmanian Conservation Trust 1. Complete independent water quality and environmental studies, before any environmental licences are issued (not an “adaptive management” approach)., 2. Environmental licences must set a hard cap on biomass and dissolved nitrogen and other pollutants emitted into our waterways from pens, hatcheries and other infrastructure., 3. Require all licences and licence amendments (marine and land based) to be referred to the EPA board so that the community can have a say., 4. Commission an independent review of the Marine Farming Planning Review Panel, focusing on its membership, governance and ties to industry., 5. Improve transparency and enforcement by prosecuting fish escapes, fish kills, marine debris and seal and cetacean interactions., 6. Mandate public

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reporting for disease outbreaks and other bio-security incidents., 7. Amend the Marine Farming Planning Act to require valuation and protection of social, recreational and visual amenity; and consideration of noise impacts on surrounding residents.

Thank you for reviewing my submission  
Yours Sincerely  
Kerry Johnstone