

From: [Lynda House](#)
To: [FinFish](#)
Subject: Legislative Council inquiry into fish farms.
Date: Friday, 22 November 2019 12:33:28 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,

Legislative Council inquiry into fish farms.

I feel certain you will have a lot of submissions. I hope to have made this one easy for you to read.

. I am a Tasmanian born resident. My family for at least 3 generations has fished in Tasmanian waters. My family has observed and respected the water that has provided so much for us.

. Fishing has helped my grandfathers and my father recover from the stress of serving in Europe in two world wars. Not just the action of fishing but the bounty that it once provided. Fishing above and below the water has given great pleasure and relaxation to my family.

. I live in Middleton, on the D'Entrecasteaux Channel. I moved here with my husband 12 years ago. We have seen the fish farms grow and have witnessed how they have changed the environment.

. We don't fish here any more. No fish. We used to love flathead fishing but now two people are lucky to catch a total of 5 or 10 that are size in a couple of hours. Our boat has not been in the water for about 2 and a half years.

. Other residents who have been here for longer than us have told us that before we came the area was more bountiful, that seaweed that washes up on the shore here didn't always smell bad, that the flathead and other fish were plentiful and that most were size.

. We have experienced boats towing pens up and down the D'Entrecasteaux all day and night. Sometimes the boat will seem literally not to move - it travels so slowly and noisily. We have timed the boats, they can take up to 6 hours to pass by our place, it's worse at night when it is quiet and the throb of their engines keep us awake.

Living here can seem like you are living next to a factory.

. My family has seen the disintegration of the health of the Channel while diving. One family member has been diving here for over 30 years. The seaweed has suffered, the bed of the Channel is barren in places, especially close to the fish farms. In his words the channel is destroyed.

. Now we are told there is a new ship, a well ship, that will wash the fish in fresh water (where will this water come from) and then discharge that water (where will it go to? what will have been added during the process?).

Have any tests of water quality been made so a meaningful benchmark is set against the effects of the water added back into the system. Does anyone know where the water used to clean the fish will be discharged.

. At meetings held by Huon and Tassal we have been presented with their positive spin on everything and I do understand there is economic benefit. But if they ruin our beautiful coastlines, our diving places, our environment generally, will other industry suffer will tourists still come to Tasmania/move to Tasmania.

. At a recent conference on potential use of seaweed in the environment, held at CSIRO, there was talk of potential for seaweed to help to deal with the pollution created by fish farms. Then the massive amount of seaweed required to make a difference was revealed. Apparently a 10% improvement on the pollution created by the fish farms is the best we can hope for - and this is still in early development.

. I am asking for consultation with communities, not public information seminars held by Huon, Tassal but government consultation. How did the disaster at Macquarie Harbour happen when it was predicted by so many who understood the way the Harbour functions.

While the fish farms are big employers so are the tourism organisations that rely on the purity of this state and it's water, the professional fishers. Amateurs bring money to the state through boat registration, fishing licences, purchases relating to fishing and boating. Fishing makes people happy - if they catch fish!

Are you going to sacrifice the benefits that our healthy waters bring so that a few companies can make a large amount of money producing fish that are artificially coloured and fed antibiotics and pollute our beautiful state.

Is it too late to set healthy limits on waste fed into our waters by fin fish production.

I hope you will help to ensure that all fish farm development is truly sustainable and does not impact on communities who are helpless to stop them.

With best wishes,

Lynda House
Middleton Tasmania

