

Inquiry into Finfish Farming in Tasmania 2019  
Legislative Council Government Administration Committee  
Parliament House  
Hobart TAS 7000

GAA/FIN 26

17<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Dear Panel Members,

"Shell fish like oysters & abalone feed on phytoplankton, which need sunlight to survive. Nearly all that is gone below about 30 metres, so shallow coastal waters are especially important for these wild sea floor species. There they have to coexist with fish farms." (Peter Boyer, MERCURY, 8 Jan. 2019)

The Tasmanian Abalone Council says that wild abalone generate \$100 million a year, so they are a significant player. Abalone can fetch \$100 per kilo, and divers' licences can fetch millions of dollars.

Salmon farmers should learn to co-exist with the whole seafood industry.

Open cage salmon farming is responsible for deposits on the sea floor of nutrients & sediments coming from artificial feed & excreta, & also chemicals used in maintaining the pens.

Tidal currents in Storm Bay have not been adequately studied.

There should be an environmental buffer zone separating salmon farms from inshore areas where shellfish are grown & harvested, to allow pollutants from pens to be diluted & dispersed by natural water movement.

The Tasmanian Government has put regulatory powers in the hands of the fish farmers for "adaptive management" - which is unsustainable, as demonstrated by the Macquarie Harbour debacle of summer 2017-2018.

Salmon farms should be in deep-sea underwater pens, as in North America, or in land-based salmon farms. Land-based operations should recycle water & recover waste as fertilizer.

Plastic pollution of the sea is another reason that salmon farming should be land-based.

I have read that these are "well-boats", for bathing fish in fresh water & transporting them to harvest. I feel that Atlantic farmed salmon are environmentally & financially too expensive. THANK YOU

Gillian Pixley