

GAA/FIN 194

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

Dear Mr Wright

As a regular amateur diver I have noticed over many years the degradation of water quality - most particularly visibility and what appears to be more silt in the lower end (southern) of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel. There appears to be less marine life and certainly less seagrass/seaweed on the bottom.

My main concern at this time is that there appears to be little or no consideration given to the positioning of new leases and the impact it is having on navigable waters in Southern Tasmania. Oak Hampton Bay is a prime example of a small community gain for massive impact - certainly visually - on the pristine waters of Mercury Passage! It appears company/business profits are far more important to our governing bodies than the needs and desires of the average taxpayer.

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 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
John Morgan