

SUBMISSION : FIN FISH FARMING IN TASMANIA INQUIRY

In my submission I wish to address concerns related to : 1: The implementation of The Sustainable Growth Plan for the Salmon Industry and its impact on local communities including data collection and publication and 2: any other issues pertaining to the industry.

1. King Island residents read in the K. I. COURIER of Nov 8th 2017 that " Tassal has been granted a permit to explore the potential for future salmon farming off King Island's east coast. " Prior to this announcement there had been NO CONSULTATION with the King Island community from either the Tasmanian government or Tassal. It is believed, however, that some members of council and the General Manager may have had meetings with them prior to the scheduled Community Meeting with Tassal in late November 2017. This has been the **only** community meeting help by Tassal. Community members who attended this meeting were overwhelmingly against the proposal and felt their fears and concerns were either not adequately addressed or dismissed by the company. A Tassal spokesperson in the Courier of March 28 2018 stated " we will have deeply consulted with the King Island community over a lengthy period of time before formalising the proposal." However as of mid November 2019 we have little evidence of any consultation. There have been no further meetings with community, no reports or findings published, even though the ADCP has been operating off Nine Mile Beach for over eighteen months, no correspondence with council or the local paper. We feel totally " left in the dark " about plans that have a profound impact on our island, lifestyle and economy.

2. Do King Islanders honestly want the East coast of King Island, from Cape Wickham to Stokes Point (the area designated a " GROW ZONE " in the Tasmanian government's Sustainable Industry Growth Plan For The Salmon Industry), to become an industrial site? Definitely not ! An online and hard copy petition of King Island residents shows an overwhelming opposition to the idea . Over 65 % of islanders signed the petition to KEEP KING ISLAND FISH FARM FREE. This fact is further strengthened by another petition, run by Surfrider Foundation, targetting surfers and visitors to King Island, that has been signed by over 25,000 people due to the fact that the east coast of King Island is a recreational fishing, diving and surfing spot popular with

locals and visitors alike . The world famous surf break: Martha Lavinia is adjacent to the proposed fish farm area and is under threat from the proposal.

Fish pens are massive structures and the so - called " fortress pens, " necessary for high energy sites, even more so. Tassal's initial projection, at the King Island public meeting in November 2017, was for 21 pens on the east coast of King Island site. Later information from the company stated 27 pens and over 2 million fish whilst Mark Asman also stated to KKIFFF members that Tassal could shift their complete Tasmanian operation to King Island's east coast if the area was suitable.

Once a site is deemed suitable then any of the three salmon companies can bid for a lease within it. This is exactly what is happening in the waters surrounding Bruny Island and Storm Bay with all three salmon companies preparing marine farm development plans for the region. The total production for Storm Bay alone is 80,000 tonnes per annum. Of further concern is the fact that there is nothing in the plans to prevent further expansion. The salmon industry, with Tasmanian government backing, has stated that it plans to double production within the next few years.

Of further and more serious concern is the fact that the Tasmanian salmon industry is completely SELF REGULATORY and a compliant government means that COMMUNITY CONCERNS and GRIEVANCES are IGNORED. The Finfish Regulatory System was ammended in December 2017. The power to approve fish farms now lies solely with the Minister for Primary Industries.

The fish farming industry is known to be a major source of pollutants in the marine environment, adversely affecting the living and growing conditions of marine lufe, algae and seaweeds. Excess artificial fish feed, fish faeces and urine, fuel and oil spills , rotting and dead fish, fish escapees and fish farm debris continues to pollute Tasmania's waterways and coastline. Tasmanian communities, living in close proximity to existing fish farms, report widespread environmental damage, excessive light and noise pollution, continual marine traffic movement and a lack of access to coastal waters for recreational use. However, of even more concern is the threat to marine breeding habitats and to our existing fishing industries : crayfish, abalone, oyster, scallop and finfish.

Concerned groups and citizens of Tasmania are calling for a HALT to salmon farm expansion until serious governance issues have been addressed. Do we want salmon companies and a compliant Liberal government to destroy King Island's inshore waters, our way of life, our King Island Brand and our future ? No ! We need to KEEP KING

ISLAND FISH FARM FREE to preserve our unique island for our and subsequent generations' enjoyment

Written by Alison Stubbs Currie King Island 7256