

**From:** [Mark Bishop](#)  
**To:** [FinFish](#)  
**Subject:** Submission for inquiry  
**Date:** Friday, 29 November 2019 2:59:32 PM

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## **Mark Bishop, Professional Fisherman,**

These are my personal views and please use them as you see fit.

I have been a close observer of the Tasmanian Atlantic Salmon Industry for the past 4 years after numerous friends and acquaintances who work/ed in the Salmon industry recounted tales of waste, pollution, seal relocations and dead fish. The further I have investigated this industry statewide and internationally the greater my concerns have become. This lead me to become the inaugural chairperson of the state wide organisation the Tasmanian Alliance for Marine Protection (TAMP) which is a collection of statewide groups from locations all impacted or potentially impacted by open net salmon farming. TAMP has consulted many independent scientists about the impacts of open net salmon farming.

My main concerns are as follows:

1. Wild fisheries ; crayfishing, abalone, scallops, scale fishing etc all are governed and managed by the concept of precautionary science which seeks to protect the fishing stocks in perpetuity. Open net Atlantic Salmon farming is governed by adaptive management science which works on the principle of trying something, observing its impact and then modifying the system (increase or decrease). The Macquarie Harbour overstocking debacle was a perfect example of this practice. These 2 differing forms of science are in direct conflict with each other and are used to manage 2 different types of fisheries sharing the same body of water. The possible introduction of open net salmon farming to the far north west area which I fish in could have catastrophic effects on our wild fish stocks and their spawning.
2. Dissolved Nitrogen. In recent times the dairy industry has been brought to task of disposing its nitrogen rich effluent into our waterways, as has our statewide sewerage systems. The salmon industry is licenced to produce and dump into our pristine coastal waters massive amounts of dissolved nitrogen many many times the levels that are naturally produced. This additional nitrogen provides nutrients for massive algal growth(blooms) which rob the water of oxygen and the algae also smothers other sea grasses and seaweeds. This renders the immediate areas near fish farms uninhabitable for other forms of marine life. The salmon industry is regulated with nominal buffers zones from rocky reefs but that buffer

distance is a set measurement that hasn't any relationship to the actual tonnages that are farmed on the lease.

3. Return to Tasmania. The lease fees paid to the state for the use of our common property is a minute fraction of the dollar value of the industry. The potential 80 000 tonnes expansion into Storm Bay would be worth over 2 billion Australian dollars to the state if that type of expansion were to happen in Norway - and yes Norwegian salmon farmers are profitable.

I am not against salmon farming if it is truly sustainable but at the moment I don't have any confidence that it is and fear that it can do great harm to our Tasmania clean green image.

I thank the committee in advance for the work that you will undertake investigating this industry and I urge you to seek truly independent advice when considering these and other issues.

Thank you,

Mark Bishop

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