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Via email.

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### **Submission to Legislative Council Fin Fish Farming in Tasmania Inquiry**

To whom it may concern,

My name is Robert Wyvill and I am General Manager Marine Operations at Petuna Aquaculture, based between Macquarie Harbour and Rowella. The following submission to the Legislative Council Inquiry into Fin Fish Farming in Tasmania represents my personal views as an employee of the fin fish industry and is independent from the views and opinions of my employer.

To give a bit of background, I grew up in a small community in Scotland where I wanted to follow in my dad's footsteps, who was the engineer on the local fish farm. I started working in fish farming when I was 14 years old and went full time as soon as I could. I ended up leaving my hometown in 2009 and moving to continue employment with Mowi, where I completed my aquaculture qualifications. I became a finalist for Lantra's Young Learner of the Year Award (finishing second) and being Lantra's Face of Fish Farming for young people. I have completed a modern apprenticeship in Aquaculture and aim to sit an extra unit which will provide me the equivalent of a Bachelor of Science.

When Marine Harvest announced they would be opening an offshore site in Muck, I applied and got the job as Manager. After the first cycle I made a lot of changes resulting in my farm achieving number 1 spot in Scotland and myself as a finalist for Manager of the Year, plus number five globally for Q3 year class. We also had the highest superior rating in Marine Harvest history for Scotland, Highest RGI globally (for our year class) and highest average weight for a harvest at 9.28kg. All this was achieved whilst keeping our compliance as Excellent with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

After spending 20 years working for the world's largest producer of Atlantic salmon, I joined Petuna on 1 July 2019 as General Manager Marine Operations. I love my job and working in the aquaculture industry. I like the competition of trying to do the best but in a responsible way, ensuring sustainable growth and minimising environmental impacts. I am responsible for all marine operations at Petuna, where I work with some wonderful people. I enjoy the variety you see whilst covering this position – I am involved with everything from as soon as the fish leave the hatchery until they are sold and take pride in overseeing quality and process from the fish leaving the hatchery to their eventual sale.

My current position involves smolt planning, Fish health, supporting WHS site representatives, operations management of all stock, forward planning and strategy, Joint Venture planning/co-management of Macquarie Harbour, and organising logistics for my area. It is a broad position that allows me to get a good snapshot of the Tasmanian aquaculture landscape.

The Tasmanian fish farming industry is much smaller than in Scotland, in fact, I see Tasmania much like Scotland a few years back. It is still very hands on. It is somewhere which has room for growth, but it must be done in a sustainable manner. I am fortunate to work for a company like Petuna which is very morally minded. They always look at what is good for fish welfare and what is good for the staff. Although in Scotland this was the case, it was far more profit driven than here in Tasmania.

There are many ways that we work to minimise environmental harm at the sites I manage in Macquarie Harbour and Rowella. We film under pens, to review and adjust processes, ensuring minimal impact on the environments in which we operate. Everyone is aware not to harm the environment around them. Our teams have clean ups around the shore to pick up anything missed. We are also audited by Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP), from which we have earned a four-star rating – meaning every step in our production chain, from hatchery and farms to feed mills and processing plants are certified to comply with the highest Best Aquaculture Practice standards. Our focus on sustainability is also demonstrated in the low pre summer Feed Conversion Ratios which we achieve, which means our fish are efficient users of feed – minimising wastage and environmental impacts.

Petuna is also very forward thinking. Our team are very innovative which leads to our success, whilst at the same time ensuring our growth is sustainable and not negatively impacting the environment.

I appreciate being given the opportunity to present the facts about my experiences in the fin fish industry and why this industry in Tasmania has been such a rewarding and successful place to work.

Thanks,

Robert Wyvill