

GAA/FIN 138  
Henry Sheerwater

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29 November 2019

Mr Stuart Wright  
Inquiry Secretary  
Parliament House, HOBART 7000  
[finfish@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:finfish@parliament.tas.gov.au)

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

Dear Mr Wright

Living on the Tasman peninsula for 10 years, I have seen the number of salmon pens out of Parsons Bay go from 2 to 25. I sail in and out of bays such as Parsons, Safety Cove, Stewarts, Fortescue and Lime Bay. I have found my sailing routes blocked by unmarked subsurface booms. On quiet days, the Seascape as far out as Wedge island, 5 kms away, throbs with factory noises. I walk the beaches and collect rubbish washed in from the farms. I see algal Blooms.

This are just the obvious damages. Under the surface? I fear changes to ecologies, the unintended consequences which we humans create so carelessly.

My partner's memories of the local bays go back to her childhood. She can speak of abundant flathead fisheries, since damaged by other human activities.

I have seen how business and politicians speak of employment opportunities but pursue enormous automation. I have heard talk of SLAPP suits; and seen a recipient, a personal friend with whom I worked on a poetry collection, die of cancer after being so sued.

Governments now work to suppress public interaction. Tasmanian state liberal government currently attempts to stop community-initiated objections to council amalgamations.

The means by which business and the notorious Tasmanian Boy's Club gain what they want do much to create a society with social divisions and resentments. In my case, pessimism and cynicism and contempt.

After I moved to koonya, my wonderful neighbour moved here. He has since built for a beautiful house, and sailed a boat back from Europe. A retired marine scientist, he has shared boardrooms with the people with whom I would disagree, if they deigned to acknowledge my existence. He tells me they care for nothing but money, though he still has energy to monitor the Great Barrier Reef during his retirement.

I would be happy to present to your committee,

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

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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

Henry Sheerwater