



Anglers Alliance  
Tasmania

29 November 2019

**Fin Fish Farming in Tasmania Inquiry  
Submission from Anglers Alliance Tasmania**

Anglers Alliance Tasmania as the peak body representing some 25,000 freshwater anglers welcomes the opportunity to comment in the Fin Fish Farming in Tasmania Inquiry. Predictably AAT's primary concern is with freshwater quality which can be severely impacted by agriculture, forestry and aquaculture operations in proximity to inland waterways.

In the past, AAT has received many complaints from our members regarding the poor environmental performance and downstream water quality of existing on stream hatcheries. With the salmon farming industry set to double its production in the next 15 years, the elephant in the room is the capacity of, and the effect of, contamination and degradation to inland waters from hatcheries on inland waterways. There are 20 hatcheries on inland rivers in Tasmania and the majority supply the marine farms, many, such as the hatcheries on the Russell and Little Denison Rivers already have a sad and well documented history of serious stream degradation.

The effects of climate change such as increased temperatures with reduced rainfall and river flows will seriously exacerbate the effects of water degradation from hatcheries on inland rivers. A doubling of production under this scenario would seem to pose a huge environmental risk to our inland waters.

Consequently AAT is of the opinion that there should be no flow through hatcheries on inland waters and that all hatcheries be should be fully re-circulatory, regulated by strict conditions and comprehensive testing and reporting requirements that should be made publicly available.

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