

Salmonid Marine Farming Policy

Salmon marine farming has significantly developed in Tasmanian coastal waters over the last 30 years and has become a key economic driver for the Tasmanian economy with particular social and community benefits at a regional coastal level. TARFish has, for nearly a decade, been directly involved in providing input into marine farming plan reviews, lease amendments, certification assessments, research projects and providing feedback to marine farmers on the potential impacts of their activities as they relate to the recreational fishing sector. Coupled with the industry growth recreational fishers have seen the corresponding loss of access to many popular areas around the state due to salmonid marine farms.

As the industry has commenced a significant expansion plan into new waters outside their current marine farm zones the scope, breadth and potential impacts have created a heightened community awareness around the future of the industry and where it sees its operations.

It is not the role of TARFish to support or not support salmonid marine farming but it is our role to look after the interests of recreational fishers in all matters and that is why we have, and will continue to be proactively involved in the marine farming industry expansion.

The key recreational fishing issues associated with salmonid marine farming relate to:

- 1) Loss of access to marine waters which leads to a loss of public amenity
- 2) The negative impact of salmonid marine farming on the marine environment
- 3) On water safety of salmonid marine farming infrastructure

TARFish expects:

- The salmonid marine farming industry to be ecologically sustainable. “Australia's National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development (1992) defines ecologically sustainable development as: 'using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased'.
- Government regulation that effectively manages the salmonid marine farming industry so that its marine environmental impacts are minimised and contained within scientifically determined levels.
- The industry to fund independent research that underpins the continued operations of the industry and the potential impacts on the marine environment, endemic species and the ecosystem.

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- The industry to compensate any displaced recreational fishing community through loss of access associated with zones, leases and farms. Compensation will be ongoing for as long as the loss of access is in place. Compensation will take the form of a community “offset” program which will be put in place to provide alternative community benefits to those that have been lost through area exclusion caused by salmonid marine farms.
- The industry to proactively engage with TARFish and work with it in understanding the concerns the recreational fishing sector has with salmonid marine farming and work together in addressing those concerns.
- Management of salmonid marine farming to be predicated on practical management plans based on decisions that are risk-based, transparent, informed, timely and with sufficient resources for implementation and future management and control.
- The industry to proactively self-report timely operational data transparently in the public domain. Given the significant developments in recent times in individual site sensor technology there is an expectation that reporting of key performance indicators for each lease will be put into the public domain in real time, or as close as can be reasonably expected.
- The Government to effectively manage any expansion of the industry by clearly articulating future salmonid marine farming areas and areas where salmonid marine farming will not be allowed. A marine planning working group including recreational fishers should be established to develop a state wide marine plan. The Government establish a network of “wildcatch” fishing areas around the state which preclude salmonid marine farming.
- Salmonid marine farms will not be considered/approved in “marginally” acceptable areas, given the significant effects of climate change that are happening in Tasmanian marine waters.
- Should major environmental damage occur in any marine farming area all current expansion plans or modifications will be put on hold until the extent, causes and implications of the major environmental damage are clearly understood and any remedial actions put in place.
- Marine farm infrastructure will not be placed/approved in close proximity to recreational boat ramps, jetties and busy navigation channels such that it creates an unacceptable risk to boaters and fishers or impedes recreational fishing activities unduly.
- Future salmonid marine farms will not be approved in estuarine waters
- Estuarine marine farm leases that have not been actively farmed for 5 years after approval to be automatically rescinded by the government. Should industry have a

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need in the future for the lease area then a new application under current regulatory approval processes must be submitted. This is to facilitate the governments stated requirement for the future of salmonid farming to be in “oceanic waters”.

- Any future expansion into off shore waters must consider the impacts on Tasmania’s world class game fishery.

TARFish will:

- Enter into strategic alliances with other groups (commercial fishing, tourism, oil and gas, conservation etc.) where common objectives have been established.
- Enter into partnerships with stakeholders to forge greater effectiveness in management, monitoring, reporting, education and extension of common interest objectives.
- Participate in stakeholder advisory group, working groups or relevant committees to provide opportunities to engage with government and its agencies on the continuing salmonid marine farming management processes and direction of research for increasing the knowledge base.

TARFish will not:

- get involved at a political level with salmonid marine farming as the association is apolitical.
- Raise, or get involved with activities that seek to address, issues that are outside the scope of impacting recreational fishing.

TARFish understands the importance of the salmonid marine farming industry across a broad range of stakeholders and wants the industry to manage its future in a socially acceptable way and be known as a “good corporate citizen”. The aim of this policy is to set out the recreational fishing sectors expectations of the industry and the government’s role in supporting the industries future.