



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Environmental Standards for Tasmanian Marine Finfish Farming 2023

### 1. What is the purpose of the Environmental Standards for Marine Finfish Farming?

The Environmental Standards for Tasmanian Marine Finfish Farming 2023 (the Environmental Standards) create a contemporary monitoring and environmental management framework for Tasmania that strengthens an already robust environmental regulatory system.

The Environmental Standards consolidate existing and new environmental monitoring and regulatory requirements, and will be supported by Technical Standards and environmental licence conditions developed by the Environment Protection Authority Tasmania (EPA) Director, all of which will be publicly accessible.

The aim of the Environmental Standards is to protect and maintain environmental values and ecological character of the areas in which marine finfish farming leases are located to ensure marine finfish farming in Tasmania remains sustainable over the long term.

### 2. Do the Environmental Standards result in a tighter regulation of the industry?

These Environmental Standards do result in additional and enhanced regulatory requirements for industry to meet. The addition of offence provisions captures all lease holders, regardless of whether an environmental licence has been issued. There are additional requirements to manage noise and light emissions and ensure exceedances of water quality trigger levels are investigated. Management plans for waste, therapeutic use and decommissioning are required. Regular reporting concerning monitoring and surveys of noise, therapeutic use, sea floor videos, reef habitats, soft sediments, feed and calculated nitrogen output and fish mortalities are also required.

### 3. How will the Environmental Standards provide certainty for the community?

The Environmental Standards provide certainty and transparency by defining the key environmental management and regulatory requirements for the industry within a single publicly available document,

which will be applied consistently across Tasmania. This sets clear expectations, providing certainty for the community and industry alike.

#### 4. How will the Environmental Standards be implemented for existing finfish farms?

Environmental offence provisions come into effect immediately for all existing finfish farms. Environmental Standards conditions will apply once the EPA has varied environmental licences to impose the relevant standards conditions.

#### 5. What is the difference between ‘Offence Provisions’ and ‘Standards Conditions’?

Offence provisions apply to all lease holders and must be complied with regardless of whether an environmental licence has been granted.

Environmental Standards conditions are to be imposed in environmental licences and apply in the context of each individual licence.

Offence provisions allow environmental management on a regional basis whereas Standards conditions apply to an individual environmental licence.

Both the offence provisions and Standards conditions ensure a consistent approach to operational, assessment and monitoring protocols. The EPA Director retains the ability to add additional conditions to environmental licences as required.

#### 6. How has public consultation on the draft Environmental Standards impacted the final document?

Feedback received from the submissions and substantive survey comments have been carefully considered and were instrumental in redrafting the Environmental Standards. A summary of feedback received and the responses is available in the Consultation Summary Report.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) has ensured that the decisions made regarding redrafting the Environmental Standards are supported by science and the EPA’s regulatory know-how, with an explanation available within the Companion Paper or in the Consultation Summary Report. NRE Tas has also included explanatory material in each purpose section throughout the Environmental Standards.

The language and structure have been improved to make the document accessible to a wider audience.

NRE Tas is focussed on getting this first Environmental Standard as clear, accurate and comprehensive as possible to support the industry and to provide certainty and transparency to the community.

#### 7. How do the new Environmental Standards align with international standards for Salmon Farming?

The EPA completed an extensive review of international regulatory systems for salmonid aquaculture which it published in June 2022. This [comparative review](#) looked at salmonid aquaculture regulatory systems in Norway, New Zealand, Ireland, Canada and Scotland. This review demonstrated that Tasmania generally aligns well with best practice environmental monitoring in an international context.



## 8. What are Technical Standards and when will they be developed?

The Technical Standards describe acceptable scientific methods for environmental assessment, measurement, monitoring, reporting and data management in marine finfish farming.

The EPA intends to have developed the majority of Technical Standards by the end of 2024.

The EPA will seek comment from industry, experts and relevant consultants when developing Technical Standards that may affect their activities.

As Technical Standards are completed, they will be published on the EPA website and a notice placed in the Government Gazette.

## 9. Will there be Environmental Standards for other industries?

The Minister for Environment and Climate Change has the power to make environmental standards for the purpose of managing other significant activities, industries, chemicals and pollutants. Further standards for the aquaculture industry are planned and consideration will be given to using this instrument as needed.

## 10. Where can I learn more about the salmon industry in Tasmania?

Some useful resources relating to salmon aquaculture in Tasmania include:

[Salmon Portal](#) – a data resource containing information on production, environmental issues, fish health and operational compliance across Tasmania’s salmon industry.

[Tasmanian Salmon Industry Plan 2023](#) – an enduring strategic framework to guide the Government’s long-term priorities for the salmon industry.

[Salmon Interactions Team](#) – an Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) group conducting research and projects that explore the interactions between salmon aquaculture, the environment and society.

[Environment Protection Authority](#) – the agency responsible for the environmental regulation of marine and freshwater finfish farms in Tasmania.

