

Tasmanian Salmon Industry Plan 2023

OVERVIEW



What is the Plan about?

The Tasmanian Salmon Industry Plan (the Plan) is an enduring strategic framework to support an innovative and sustainable salmon industry in Tasmania, which meets expectations of the community.

It guides the Government's long term priorities for the salmon industry – being responsive to the changing needs of salmon farmers, supporting businesses and the wider community.

The Plan has four inter-related priority outcomes:

Priority outcome 1: Sustainable industry

Priority outcome 2: Healthy ecosystems

Priority outcome 3: Prosperous communities

Priority outcome 4: Contemporary governance

There are 21 strategic pathways, aligned to the priority outcomes, that represent activity areas for delivery in the near, medium and longer term.

How will it be implemented?

Implementation of the Plan will be coordinated by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas), in collaboration with associated state government agencies, research organisations and the independent Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

NRE Tas will coordinate three new implementation arrangements:

1. Salmon Industry Working Group – government working with industry.
2. Salmon Coordination Committee – government agencies working together.
3. Community engagement forums - regular and consistent engagement with community and local governments on the Plan implementation, and broader aquaculture and marine resource management.

What are Government's priority actions?

Near term – Expected completion within 3 months to 2 years

Improve environmental management outcomes

Finalising Environmental Standards for Marine Finfish Farming and developing supporting Technical Standards.

Developing Environmental Standards for Freshwater Finfish Farming, and supporting Technical Standards.

Establishing a framework to support the transition of flow through hatchery systems over a certain size to recirculating aquaculture systems.

Investment certainty

Scoping a government-led planning process for future finfish farming opportunities in south-east state waters, further off-shore extending from Storm Bay south into the Tasman Sea.

Return to community

Consulting on and implementing the principle of an appropriate return from the salmon aquaculture industry to the Tasmanian community.

Greater transparency and improved communication

Reviewing the Salmon Farming Data Portal to:

- expand the information available, including public reporting aligned to implementing the new aquaculture standards as they are enacted;
- determine the most appropriate arrangement for managing the Portal going forward including platform costs and hosting organisation(s); and
- undertake relevant international comparison of publicly available marine farming information in other jurisdictions and progress relevant recommendations.

Full cost recovery

Moving from partial cost recovery to recovering the full costs of managing the industry from 1 July 2023.

Improved management of wildlife interaction

Updating the Seal Management Framework and Minimum Requirements.

Developing new Wildlife Interaction Standards that address potential interactions that occur with a range of marine wildlife species (including seals) with measures to minimise risk to the health and safety of animals and farmworkers.

Improving penalties, compliance and marine debris management

Reviewing the penalties and compliance frameworks that apply to finfish.

Reviewing and updating the Marine Farming Debris Zero Tolerance Compliance Policy.

Implementing new Aquaculture Standards (Biosecurity Program, Standardised Marine Farming Management Controls and others as they are finalised).

Medium term – Expected completion within 2 to 5 years

Continued improvement of legislation

Reviewing the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995* and *Marine Farming Planning Act 1995*.

Investment certainty

Working with the Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre and Australian Government to identify new areas of Commonwealth waters for aquaculture research.

Scoping legislation for commercial aquaculture in Commonwealth waters, regulated by the State.

Certainty for the community

Progressing statutory planning processes for relevant Marine Farming Development Plans across the state to remove finfish farming from zones where the area is not subject to an existing marine farming lease, commencing with the Furneaux Islands Marine Farming Development Plan.



What is the Government's policy on farming?

Existing farms

Existing statutory processes, plans and rights will be honoured. However, the Government recognises there is significant public interest in inshore farming areas and there is an ongoing need to consider changing social and environmental suitability in land and marine use planning.

The Government will continue to use statutory processes, and policy incentives to promote effective use of marine resources. It will support marine farming lease re-configurations that have a positive social and economic effect and maintain or improve environmental and biosecurity performance.

Before the re-configuration of existing marine farming zones, planning proposals must be considered through a statutory planning process, which includes consideration of community views and an environmental impact assessment.

New farms and further offshore farming

Before the establishment of any new marine farming zones, planning proposals must be considered through a statutory planning process, which includes consideration of community views and an environmental impact assessment.

The Government will support planning proposals in areas that are further away from land, in higher energy, more exposed and deeper water. This includes proposals further offshore outside existing marine farming areas that:

- minimise and mitigate overlap with incompatible cultural, environmental, social or commercial uses; and
- are located away from reefs (including rocky shorelines) so as to reduce potential impacts on reef-community ecosystems; and
- are further away from land, especially residential areas, to reduce potential environmental nuisance and related amenity impacts on communities.

In the short term, sites further offshore may not be available and/or viable for industry, however in the long term, offshore sites may provide opportunities and certainty for increased production. Government will look at policy settings to incentivise the relocation of existing inshore operational and dormant finfish leases to areas further offshore, particularly leases that may be constrained for social, economic or environmental reasons.



The Government will not support any further salmon farming in eastern Tasmanian waters between Cape Portland and Tasman Island.



Tasmanian Salmon Industry Plan framework

Vision

A sustainable industry into the future all Tasmanians can be proud of – one that is economically successful, environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and well-managed.

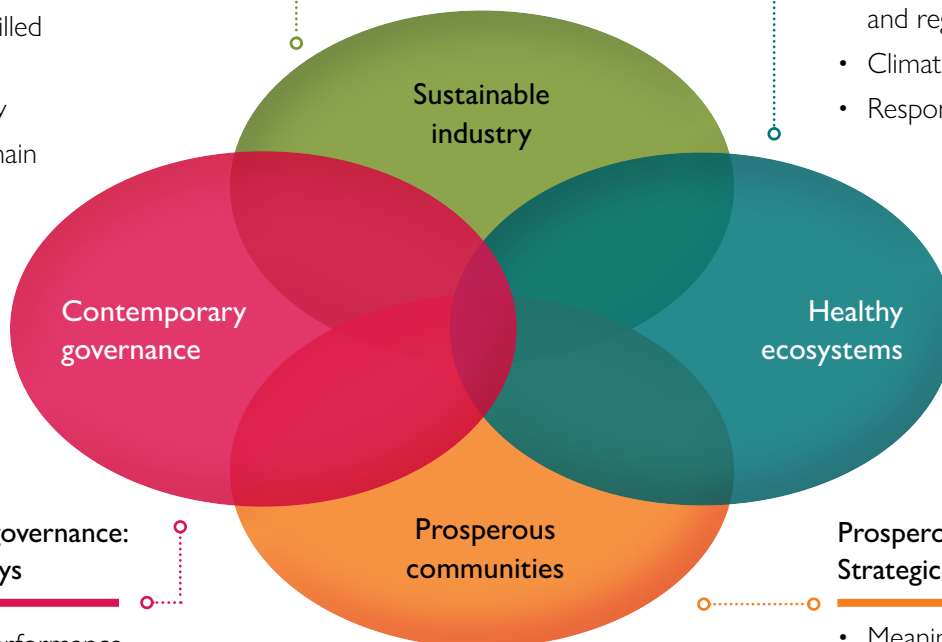
Priority outcomes

Sustainable industry: Strategic pathways

- Investment certainty
- Innovation partnerships
- Integrated planning
- Diverse and skilled workforce
- Market security
- Local supply chain

Healthy ecosystems: Strategic pathways

- Responsible industry
- Science-based decisions
- Government standards and regulations
- Climate change adaptation
- Responsive management



Contemporary governance: Strategic pathways

- Process and performance transparency
- Independent science
- Enforcement and compliance
- Community outreach
- Strategic linkages

Prosperous communities: Strategic pathways

- Meaningful jobs
- Regional economic stimulus
- Aboriginal enterprises and stewardship
- Leveraging benefits
- Value capture

Implementation program

Actions | Coordination | Communication | Regulation | Research