

SUBMISSION 7 - Confidential

Hello Environment Policy,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the *Environment Standards for Tasmanian Marine Finfish Farming 2023* Consultation Draft.

The only part of my submitted comments I wish to be confidential is my name and email address.

First some context. My primary concern is the noise I am forced to endure 24 hours, 7 days a week from salmon farm operations. I have recently written to Environmental Protection Authority Tasmania about the noise after suffering with the noise from salmon farm operations for a number of years. My anxiety levels are going through the roof and my health is declining as a direct result of the unrelenting low frequency droning noise coming from diesel engines supporting the salmon farm operations.

What appears to be a small audible amount of noise coming from the salmon farm operations standing outside my home is somehow amplified when standing inside my home. I do not fully understand the technical reasons for this (I am no expert in this field of study) but I understand it has something to do with the behaviour of low frequency sounds, such as those emitted by large diesel engines used in salmon farm operations. It may well be that the insulation in my home is inadequate, however, I am very reluctant to renovate my home to improve the insulation without a guarantee it will remedy the distressing effects of this low frequency sound coming from the salmon farming operations.

The effect of these low frequency sound waves on my home especially comes to the fore when trying to sleep at night. At times it is impossible to sleep and I am left to resort to putting on music or even the radio to drown out the drone coming from the salmon farm diesel engines as it is easier to get some sleep in this manner. However, it is not a good night's sleep resulting in increased anxiety.

I feel it is also relevant to mention that it has not always been transparent where to make a complaint about the salmon farmer operations. I would have complained much earlier if I could have easily located where to forward my complaint. Perhaps it was my own inability but I think it should be made much more transparent where to forward complaints. I do not think it is appropriate to suggest to residents to contact the farmers involved directly. They are extremely bad neighbours to deal with and they have a very dismissive attitude.

EPA Tasmania informed me that due to my location in Tinderbox, the most likely source of the noise is Marine Farming Lease No. 281 Yellow Bluff. They also informed me the Environmental licence for this lease is not subject to any noise conditions.

In this context I obviously find the noise the salmon farmers are permitted to make from this lease totally unreasonable and a complete nuisance, especially when trying to get some sleep at night.

I make the following comments in relation to the consultation draft Noise related provisions. My comments equally apply to Division 6 of Part 5 and Division 9 of Part 4 to the consultation draft *Tasmanian Marine Finfish Farming 2023*, given my experience with nuisance noise caused by the salmon operations at Marine Farming Lease No. 281 Yellow Bluff and the potential for vessels travelling to, from and at the lease site to equally cause nuisance noise:

1. The 32 dB(A) level proposed for 'Night time' is manifestly inadequate given my experience with Marine Farming Lease No. 281 Yellow Bluff. Salmon farm operations should not be permitted to make any noise that is a nuisance to residents in noise sensitive premises, especially at 'Night time'.
2. The clause permitting licence holders to exceed the sound levels prescribed by less than 5dB(A) relative to normal ambient noise is ambiguous at best but is manifestly inadequate. The point of measurement here is of significant importance because of the very nature of low frequency noise emitted by the diesel engines of salmon farmers (including generators and vessels). The fact is that a diesel engine can easily be heard at my home from Marine Farming Lease No. 281 Yellow Bluff, however, I am not going to be able to hear the sound of the wind or sea waves crashing into structures located at Marine Farming Lease No. 281 Yellow Bluff. A permission for salmon farmers to emit louder noise is not in the interests of residents in noise sensitive premises and would appear to me to make the noise restriction provisions unadministrable.
3. Noise restrictions should apply to all salmon farm activities. As I understand, there might not be any noise restrictions currently being applied at Marine Farming Lease No. 281 Yellow Bluff. If this is the case it is manifestly inadequate. The noise from the leased site is causing significant nuisance. Furthermore, salmon farmers should be required to instal insulation so that noise emitted from equipment used at farm leases is significantly reduced. Preferably to an extent where the drone of diesel engines is not heard at 'Night time' at noise sensitive premises.
4. My preference would be for zero audible noise from salmon operation during 'Night time'. Residents should not be subjected to noise from salmon farm operations when they are trying to sleep at night.

I am also very concerned about the salmon farmers use of therapeutics. I will leave it to the experts to argue about their use at all in farming in general and other technicalities. I simply make the following unsophisticated comment as a person that likes to catch fish and eat them from our seas. If a salmon farmer uses therapeutics in a location where it can be consumed by wild fish and if it is used at a level where they deem their fish are not suitable for human consumption at the time of administering the therapeutics, then Tasmanian's must be told about the specifics, including the location where the therapeutics were administered. As a person that catches and consumes fish from our seas in concerns me greatly that my health is unknowingly put at risk through the lack of transparency of this practice. In addition to appropriate website reporting, salmon farmers should be required to make it known through mainstream media. Requiring residents to trawl through each of their websites would be manifestly inadequate.

Like most Tasmanian's I am very concerned at the impact of salmon farmer operations have of our flora and fauna, including from waste products and feed that adversely impacts the seabed and the use of under water explosive devices. I cannot add any expert comments in this area. I would like to just say that salmon farm operations should not be permitted to significantly adversely impact our flora and fauna. The use of under water explosive devices is just wrong.

I am also concerned about light attenuation. One of the pleasures of living in rural Tasmania is the opportunity to see Auroras. It would be greatly appreciated sufficient management of light could be imposed on salmon farmers so that residences can still experience this joy.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments.

Kind regards
[Redacted]