

Submission: Towards a 10 year Salmon Plan

Tasmanian salmon companies have gone through a rapid period of growth that has outpaced regulation and science. Company profits have not led to commensurate growth in returns to the State Government or the community. Meanwhile communities bear the costs of the industry. The fast tracking of the salmon industry needs to end.

Modern marine management considers all activities and sectors using coastal waters concurrently and includes them in integrated planning and management. This is the top recommendation arising from the Parliamentary Inquiry into Fin Fish Farming. Short-term thinking and vested interests are wrecking our coastal waters, and all Tasmanians are paying the price.

Submission

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ABOUT THE AUSTRALIA INSTITUTE

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As we begin the 21st century, new dilemmas confront our society and our planet. Unprecedented levels of consumption co-exist with extreme poverty. Through new technology we are more connected than we have ever been, yet civic engagement is declining. Environmental neglect continues despite heightened ecological awareness. A better balance is urgently needed.

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The Institute publishes research that contributes to a more just, sustainable and peaceful society. Our goal is to gather, interpret and communicate evidence in order to both diagnose the problems we face and propose new solutions to tackle them.

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Australia Institute Tasmania acknowledges that lutruwita/Tasmania was taken forcibly and unethically and that palawa and pakana people continue to suffer the consequences of this today. The Institute offers respect to palawa and pakana Elders past and present. We stand for a future that recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sovereignty and respects and acknowledges their perspectives, culture, language and history.

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Summary

The Australia Institute Tasmania welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania's (DNRET) Discussion Paper: *Towards a 10-Year Salmon Plan* (the Salmon Plan). The Tasmanian Government's commitment to improving the next Salmon Plan and the strategic policy settings for the industry is to be commended.

This submission builds on previous research on marine resource management and governance in providing the Institute's response. The Institute also draws on the wealth of information contained in the Parliamentary Inquiry *Fin Fish Farming in Tasmania* report, and the Government's response.

Tasmania hosts some of the highest marine diversity and endemism on Earth, world's best practice expertise in marine science and governance, and punches above its weight in economic contributions, thanks to our ocean.

It has been 13 years since the last integrated assessment of ecosystem health by resource managers. This is despite a statutory requirement to produce a State of the Environment Report every 5 years.

Australia Institute research shows a vast majority of Tasmanians are concerned that the health of Tasmania's coastal waters is declining. More than one in two agree the Tasmanian Government is not doing enough to protect the health of our ocean. Tasmanians want action in this space.

Current regulation of the salmon industry has not achieved its objectives and obligations with concerns including eutrophication of inshore waters, ecosystem flow-on effects, interactions with native species, habitat protection, community returns, and lack of community input into planning and management decisions. This, alongside increasing pressure from climate change, other uses of the marine environment, and land-based pollution all call for a fundamentally improved management framework for our coastal waters.

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and Australia's commitment to transformation through the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, is building momentum for a more sustainable ocean economy. Sustainable production and protection of habitats and biodiversity are core elements of a sustainable ocean economy.

To thrive, Tasmania must now turn its attention to implementing research and developments in best practice contemporary resource management locally. Integrated

ecosystem-based management is widely recognised as the best practice management framework for oceans.

The Australia Institute Tasmania recommends:

1. Implement the top recommendation of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Fin Fish Farming by aligning the development of the Salmon Plan with the review of the *Living Marine Resource Management Act 1995*, and establish an overarching Marine Plan for Tasmania. This should be developed through a process that considers all uses and users, is evidence based and includes environmental, social and recreational values assessments (Integrated Ecosystem Based Management).
2. The Salmon Plan should be developed through a science based and consultative, multi-sector marine spatial planning regulatory process to implement integrated ecosystem based management.
3. Remove fin fish farms from sensitive, sheltered and biodiverse areas.
4. The Salmon Plan should ensure robust and transparent reporting for all users of public resources.
5. State of the Environment Reporting should urgently recommence to provide multi-disciplinary ecosystem condition data and assessments, and recommendations for management actions.
6. The Salmon Plan should adopt a precautionary approach to management.
7. Appropriate recognition of the Traditional Owners of lutruwita/Tasmania and co-management of resources with First Nations Tasmanians, in collaboration with scientists and the community, should be articulated in the Salmon Plan.
8. The aquaculture sector should pay for the cost of management. Cost recovery ensures appropriate economic signals are being provided and funding is available for necessary scientific assessments and management arrangements. This should not be augmented with funding from consolidated revenue.
9. An economic return should be paid to the community for the private use of public resources and should be negotiated in advance of any new policy settings. This could be achieved through royalty payments, auctions of leases or other mechanisms.
10. Resource sharing arrangements need to be clearly spelt out and where one sector is favoured at the expense of another, compensation should be payable to the sector which loses resource access.

Introduction

Tasmania is an island state; the ocean and coasts are embedded in our psyche. This connection to the sea is ancient – First Nations Tasmanians have cared for sea country for over 40,000 years. Tasmania has some of the highest levels of marine diversity and endemism in the world.¹ This is globally significant. Habitats supporting the rich variety of marine life include kelp forests, rocky reefs, seagrass beds, sponge gardens and open water, each with their own communities of fish, seabirds, marine mammals and invertebrates.

The multiple uses of Tasmania’s marine environment vary from commercial uses such as fishing, aquaculture, ports and shipping, and emerging offshore industries, to a diverse range of cultural, tourism and recreational activities.

Tasmania’s fishing and aquaculture industries make important contributions to state and national economies and employment in Tasmania. In 2017/18, Tasmania’s fishing, aquaculture and associated processing industries produced products with a gross value of \$1.2 billion, representing \$534 million in value added terms. Combined, these sectors are estimated to employ 3,410 people on a full-time equivalent basis.²

Tasmania’s coastal waters are under pressure, with east coast waters warming four times faster than the global average.³ Tasmania has depleted fish stocks, ignored flow-on effects from this, eutrophication of inshore waters, threatened species and paltry habitat protection. Land-based activities, along with changes to freshwater and sediment flows, are also impacting the health of our marine environment. This all calls for fundamental improvement to our overall ocean management.

This submission addresses the Discussion Paper’s objective to inform the development of a new draft 10 Year Salmon Plan. The Institute has long contributed to marine policy discussion and development through research and engagement, including:

- [Time for a state-wide marine plan](#)
- [Tidal Wave of Alarm for Tassie Oceans Amid Landmark Marine Law Review: Research](#)
- [Submission to Inquiry into the Australian aquaculture sector](#)

¹ Edyvane, K. S. (2000) *Tasmanian Marine Protected Areas Strategy Background Report* Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment.

² Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (2019) *Tasmanian Fisheries and Aquaculture Industry 2017/18: Economic Contributions Summary*, https://www.frdc.com.au/sites/default/files/products/Economic%20Contributions_TAS%20Summary_NOV2019.pdf

³ Bennett, S. *et al.* (2016) The “Great Southern Reef”: Social, ecological and economic value of Australia’s neglected kelp forests. *Marine and Freshwater Research* **67**, 47–56

- [Polling: Majority of Tasmanians Want Pause of Tasmanian Salmon Farm Expansion](#)
- [Towards a sustainable marine management regime: An update on Tasmanian progress](#)
- [Tasmanians still missing out on revenue from fish farms](#)
- [Making mountains out of minnows: Salmon in the Tasmanian economy](#)
- [Submission: Fin Fish Farming in Tasmania Inquiry](#)
- Other research is available [here](#).

The Australia Institute Tasmania recently participated in:

- 2022 Tasmanian Salmon Symposium hosted by the Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre and
- Salmon Forum hosted by the Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre.

The Institute's response is focused on the information contained in the Parliamentary Inquiry *Fin Fish Farming in Tasmania* report, and the Government's response, in addition to the Discussion Paper itself. It touches on a few of the key recommendations where the Institute's research differs from the Government's response to the Inquiry. Further, while the Discussion Paper questions helped guide this submission, it does not attempt to address all the questions in the Discussion Paper. The Institute has opted to take a more generalised approach.

Tasmanians support action for healthy oceans

Australia Institute research in 2021-22 found widespread community concern about the decline in health of Tasmania's coastal waters as well as a strong appetite for more Government action on the health of our oceans: ⁴

- A strong majority of Tasmanians (64%) are concerned that the health of Tasmania's coastal waters is declining.
- More than one in two (56%) agreed the Tasmanian Government is not doing enough to protect the health of our ocean.
- More than six in ten (63%) Tasmanians agreed that the expansion of salmon farms in Tasmania should be paused until industry standards are developed and current government inquiries and reviews into the industry have been completed.

⁴ The Australia Institute (2021) *Polling: Majority of Tasmanians Want Pause of Tasmanian Salmon Farm Expansion* <https://australiainstitute.org.au/post/polling-majority-of-tasmanians-want-pause-of-tasmanian-salmon-farm-expansion/>

- More than three in four Braddon voters (76%) are concerned that Tasmania's ocean is under pressure from climate change, pollution, and fishing and support the government taking action to make sure it stays healthy for future generations.⁵

⁵ The Australia Institute (2022) *Polling: Braddon voter during the 2022 Federal Election*:
<https://australiainstitute.org.au/report/braddon-polling-march-2022/>

Integrated Ecosystem Based Management

The long-awaited Legislative Council Fin Fish Farming in Tasmania Inquiry Report (the Parliamentary Inquiry), tabled in Parliament in May, highlighted the many problems faced by the salmon industry. The Parliamentary Inquiry made 194 findings and 68 recommendations. It amounts to a scathing critique of the current Sustainable Industry Growth Plan. The recommendations provide a sensible and pragmatic approach to addressing the salmon industry's problems. The Parliamentary Inquiry's top recommendation is for a revised Salmon Industry Plan to be developed as one aspect of an overarching Marine Plan for Tasmania.

However, despite supporting, or supporting in principle, a majority of its recommendations, the Government is delaying a move towards a more integrated approach to marine management, while proceeding with the separate development of the Salmon Plan. This is a missed opportunity to align both processes and fundamentally improve overall planning and management of Tasmania's marine environment. The current path provides special treatment to the salmon industry at the expense of other users of the marine environment.

With the first review of Tasmania's main marine law also currently underway, the *Living Marine Resource Management Act 1995*, now is the ideal time to implement comprehensive marine planning.

A Marine Plan for Tasmania should be developed through a process that considers all uses and users, is based on the best available science, and includes environmental, social and recreational values assessments. This is Integrated Ecosystem Based Management (or Integrated Management).

Integrated Management is practiced in many parts of the world, such as Canada, New Zealand and Europe. Closer to home, the Australian Government uses it offshore (from 3-200nm) and to co-manage the Great Barrier Reef. Other jurisdictions use it to varying degrees, with Victoria leading the way and NSW also well advanced in its implementation.

Victoria has reformed its marine and coastal management over recent years, with the aim of improving coordination and integration across all sectors. The state has brought together existing laws and management plans into a cohesive and coordinated framework. There is a lot we can learn from our nearest neighbours.

Recommendation 1:

Implement the top recommendation arising from the Parliamentary Inquiry into Fin Fish Farming by aligning the development of the Salmon Plan with the review of the *Living Marine Resource Management Act 1995*, and establish an overarching Marine Plan for Tasmania. This should be developed through a process that considers all uses and users, is evidence based and includes environmental, social and recreational values assessments (Integrated Ecosystem Based Management).

Marine Spatial Planning

The second recommendation of the Parliamentary Inquiry is to ensure a revised Salmon Plan specifies potential fin fish farming areas identified through a process of marine spatial planning, and sets an industry production target for these areas which is transparently developed, sustainable and evidence-based.

To date, planning for aquaculture in Tasmania has not used comprehensive marine spatial planning. As IMAS has stated, their planning is designed to meet the needs of only one industry: fin fish farming. According to IMAS, there is no reason its planning could not be integrated into a more comprehensive planning process.

Marine spatial planning is a well-recognised methodology to incorporate best available science into decision-making. It is also an effective way to incorporate social, cultural and economic information. Many scientists agree that spatial management is a core component of good marine resource management.⁶ It is a key tool used to implement integrated ecosystem based management. It is also effective at resolving conflict because everyone participating can see how resources are being shared.

Single sector spatial planning, which only includes information relevant to one individual industry or sector, is not marine spatial planning by its usual and well recognised definition. Marine spatial planning normally includes all sectors and values. Done well, it is an excellent tool to plan for the various uses of our ocean's resources as they continue to expand and compete with one another in the future.

Marine spatial planning is similar to electronic mapping, or Geographic Information Systems (GIS). It uses spatial information, represented visually in multiple layers, to show scientific, social, cultural and economic information in a spatial format.

These layers overlap to show a heat map-type image, highlighting different planning scenarios, depending on what questions are being asked.

Marine spatial planning can be used to identify areas for marine conservation, such as in the Great Barrier Reef, or to simply improve the way all the different activities are managed in our ocean, such as in Victoria and elsewhere.

⁶ Little LR, Day J, Haddon M, et al. *Comments on the evidence for the recent claim on the state of Australian fish stocks*. Aquatic Conserv: Mar Freshw Ecosyst.2019;29:329-330.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/aqc.2992330>COMMENTARY AND CORRESPONDENCE ARTICLE

Victoria's Marine and Coastal Act 2018 requires scientific evidence and data, along with the views of rights-holders and stakeholders as input to their state-wide Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Framework. The Victorian MSP Framework has three primary functions:⁷

1. To support integration and coordination of planning and management across marine sectors, the land-sea interface and jurisdictional boundaries,
2. To support Traditional Owners, marine sectors, marine users and the community participate in marine planning and management, and
3. To provide a process for initiating, approving and undertaking marine spatial planning.

New Zealand also provides a model for consideration, where Maori values are incorporated into economic systems and customary management of marine areas. New Zealand undertook its first marine spatial planning process from 2013–2016. A review of this work found that marine spatial planning can support ecosystem-based management, collaborative processes can be powerful in achieving shared outcomes for the community and Indigenous knowledge can strengthen planning processes by providing more holistic knowledge.⁸

The Australian Panel of Experts on Environmental Law (APEEL) remind us of past policy commitments to address the fragmented approach to marine and coastal governance. They recommend the use of marine spatial planning to achieve this. They recommend recognition of First Nations peoples' rights to sea-country as an essential part of these processes, including legal and non-legal mechanisms for sea country governance.⁹

Marine spatial planning, when done well, is a participatory process which includes all stakeholders in the planning exercise. It includes interactive electronic mapping of all values and potential activities and is inclusive, open and evidence based.

Recommendation 2:

The Salmon Plan should be developed through a science based and consultative, multi-sector marine spatial planning regulatory process to implement integrated ecosystem based management.

⁷ State of Victoria. (2020) *Marine and Coastal Policy*. <https://www.marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/coastal-management/marine-and-coastal-policy>.

⁸ Peart, R. (2019) Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari: addressing catchment and marine issues in an integrated marine spatial planning process. *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems* **29**, 1561–1573

⁹ Australian Panel of Experts on Environmental Law (2017) *Marine and Coastal Issues (Technical Paper 4)*.

Sensitive, sheltered and biodiverse coastal waters

The Parliamentary Inquiry received 224 written submissions.¹⁰ Many submissions highlighted a wide range of concerns regarding ecosystem impacts associated with the scale and pace of development. These included higher nutrient loads affecting macroalgal assemblages on reefs some distances from farms, impacts arising from jellyfish and algal blooms, seal relocations, biosecurity risks, impacts on rare, threatened, and endangered species, and marine debris.

Jellyfish blooms are an emerging phenomenon in Tasmania and elsewhere. They arise from a feedback mechanism resulting from warmer waters and increased nutrient loads arising from rapid expansion of fish farms in Tasmania. They affect everything in the ecosystem as well as aquaculture species by directly feeding on fish well as on eggs and larvae of all marine species.¹¹

The environmental disaster in Macquarie Harbour in 2017-18 saw significantly reduced dissolved oxygen levels, an abundance of Dorvilleid worms (reliable indicators of anoxia in the benthos), outbreaks of fish diseases, and mass mortality events.¹² This was driven by overstocking and a reverse precautionary approach in the management of salmon farms. It not only affected salmon farms (in May 2015 Petuna lost 85,000 fish because of low levels of dissolved oxygen) and the immediate marine environment but also a section of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The health of the harbour, and its threatened and endangered species, were also severely impacted.¹³

National inquiries into aquaculture have also seen the environmental impacts of salmon farming raised as key concerns. These include the 2015 Senate Inquiry into the Fin-fish Aquaculture Industry in Tasmania and the 2021 House of Representatives Australian Aquaculture Sector Inquiry.

The Parliamentary Inquiry recommended reducing inshore fin fish farming sites, with priority given to ceasing operations in sensitive, sheltered and biodiverse areas (Recommendation #3). Best available science continues to find concerning impacts of

¹⁰ Legislative Council Sessional Committee Government Administration A Sub-Committee Fin Fish Farming in Tasmania Inquiry https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ctee/Council/GovAdminA_Fin.html

¹¹ Gershwin, L. (2019) Submission GAA/FIN 40 to the Legislative Council Sessional Committee Government Administration A Sub-Committee Fin Fish Farming in Tasmania Inquiry.

¹² Kirkpatrick et al, 'The reverse precautionary principle: science, the environment and the salmon aquaculture industry in Macquarie Harbour, Tasmania, Australia', *Pacific Conservation Biology* 25(1).

¹³ Ibid.

salmon farming in these waters. Unfortunately, the Government has not committed to removing finfish farming from these areas.

Recommendation 3:

Remove fin fish farms from sensitive, sheltered and biodiverse areas.

Reporting

The Parliamentary Inquiry highlights the importance of data in marine management. There should be no reduction in reporting requirements as a result of changes to the Salmon Plan. Rather, better use should be made of all available data, for example through urgently recommencing State of the Environment Reporting.

Recommendation 4:

The Salmon Plan should ensure robust and transparent reporting for all users of public resources.

Recommendation 5:

State of the Environment Reporting should urgently recommence to provide multi-disciplinary ecosystem condition data and assessments, and recommendations for management actions.

Climate change

Climate change is adding to, and in some cases exacerbating, previously existing stressors. Meanwhile, the various uses of Tasmania's ocean will continue to expand and compete with one another. Commercial and recreational fishing pressures will continue, as will the impacts of aquaculture. Land-based activities including the expansion and intensification of agriculture, pollution from runoff from industry, along with changes to freshwater and sediment flows, will continue impacting the health of our marine environment in the future.

The Australian Academy of Science estimates that over the past decade, more than 40% of Australia's marine habitats have been severely impacted by extreme climate events.¹⁴ This has impacted coastal protections and is reshaping local ecosystems.

The east coast of Tasmania is a recognised hotspot for changes occurring as a result of climate change. Scientists estimate these waters are warming almost four times faster than the global average and this is projected to continue.¹⁵

Considerable uncertainty still exists especially where rapid change is underway and it is likely to be some time before these uncertainties are adequately resolved. A practical response to this is to take a precautionary approach, improve risk or vulnerability assessments, and implement effective integrated ecosystem based management.

The Australian Marine Sciences Association recently published recommendations to this effect on ocean management under climate change:¹⁶

“The increasing threat posed by anthropogenic climate change reinforces the need and importance of effective and equitable management of marine systems and threatened species, including improved vulnerability assessments, fisheries management, marine protected areas and integrated coastal zone planning, all of which take cognisance of anticipated future climate change. Such management actions will not necessarily eliminate impacts of climate, but reduce pressure on marine species to maximise their potential for adaption to changing conditions.”

There is increasing movement towards evidence-based management for marine resources internationally. However, the requirement for evidence of impacts to enable decision making can appear to be at odds with a precautionary approach to management. The

¹⁴ Future Earth Australia (2021). Sustainable oceans and coasts national strategy 2021-2030. Australian Academy of Science, Canberra, Australia <https://www.futureearth.org.au/publications/sustainable-oceans-and-coasts-strategy>

¹⁵ Bennett, S. *et al.* (2016) The “Great Southern Reef”: Social, ecological and economic value of Australia's neglected kelp forests. *Marine and Freshwater Research* **67**, 47–56

¹⁶ AMSA (2022) *AMSA Position Statement: Climate Change*

Precautionary Principle calls for preventive actions in the face of uncertain information about serious environmental risks.

Recommendation 6:

The Salmon Plan should adopt a precautionary approach to management.

First Nations rights

First Nations Tasmanians value healthy marine ecosystems as part of a range of associated values, including integrated land and sea country access rights, spiritual and cultural practices and economic values.¹⁷

First Nations Tasmanians have successfully established their right to fish but expect to also gain an economic benefit from the exploitation of their traditional resources. A comprehensive and modern approach to marine resource management should acknowledge and provide for this. Further, the practices of First Nations Tasmanians provide relevant management strategies which have not been adequately considered or incorporated.¹⁸

Tasmanian Aboriginal communities are best placed to respond to improvements to the Salmon Plan to strengthen recognition of their rights. The Institute strongly encourages meaningful engagement with First Nations representatives and commends the recent appointment of an Aboriginal Fisheries Officer to the Department.

Recommendation 7:

Appropriate recognition of the Traditional Owners of lutruwita/Tasmania and co-management of resources with First Nations Tasmanians, in collaboration with scientists and the community, should be articulated in the Salmon Plan.

¹⁷ Ogier, E. & Macleod, C. K. (2013) *Your Marine Values: Public Report. IMAS Technical Report*

¹⁸ Ogier, E. & Macleod, C. K. (2013) *Your Marine Values: Public Report. IMAS Technical Report*

Marine resources and Tasmania's economy

Tasmania's fishing and aquaculture industries make important contributions to state and national economies and employment in Tasmania. In 2017/18 fisheries, aquaculture and associated processing produced products with a gross value of \$1.2 billion, representing \$534 million in value added terms, along with an estimated 3,410 FTE jobs.¹⁹

Australia Institute research has previously explained some of the pitfalls of simplistic employment figure statistics,^{20, 21} however, these figures recognise the importance of these industries to the state's economy.

A major shortcoming of current policy is that the Tasmanian community does not receive an economic return from the commercial use of its marine resources, with the sole exception of abalone royalties. Private sales or export revenue does not accrue to the public, despite public resources being exploited. Fees and licencing are important parts of regulating Tasmanian fisheries, but this revenue is aimed simply at recovering management costs, not providing a return to the community.

This is poor policy from an economic and equity perspective and questions have long been asked as to whether Australia's policy settings are providing appropriate community returns.²² With all three salmon companies now in foreign hands, there is an urgent need to strengthen returns to the Tasmanian community for the use of their public resources.

Previous Australia Institute research has highlighted potential mechanisms for improving community returns demonstrated by Norwegian aquaculture policy.²³ The public benefit to Norwegians from the salmon industry includes auctioning biomass licenses, as well as other taxes and fees. This research also noted the potential case for royalties on aquaculture operations, if the public resource was conceived of as a community's waterways, rather than fish.

¹⁹ Tasmanian Fisheries and Aquaculture Industry (2019) *2017/18: Economic Contributions Summary* FRDC project 2017-210

²⁰ Minshull, L. and Browne, B. (2019) *Making mountains out of minnows: Salmon in the Tasmanian economy*. The Australia Institute

²¹ Browne, B. (2018) *Fishing for compliments: Fishing in the Tasmanian economy*. The Australia Institute

²² Rodgers, T. and Webster, S. (2007) *Resource rent mechanisms in Australian primary industries: some observations and issues*. Paper presented at the 51st Annual Conference of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society Conference

²³ Minshull, L. and Browne, B. (2019) *Making mountains out of minnows: Salmon in the Tasmanian economy*. The Australia Institute

Recommendation 8:

The aquaculture sector should pay for the cost of management. Cost recovery ensures appropriate economic signals are being provided and funding is available for necessary scientific assessments and management arrangements. This should not be augmented with funding from consolidated revenue.

Recommendation 9:

An economic return should be paid to the community for the private use of public resources. This should be negotiated in advance of any new policy decision. This could be achieved through royalty payments, auctions of leases or other mechanisms.

Resource sharing and allocation

The current management approach does not provide a framework for resource sharing, being the allocation between sectors. There are multiple marine sectors in the Tasmanian community: researchers, non-extractive users (including divers, tourism operators), First Nations Tasmanian communities, recreational fishers, commercial fishers, and marine farming operators.

The management framework should provide for resource sharing and allocation among sectors. Marine spatial planning is an effective tool to incorporate ecological, social, cultural and economic information and can be used to implement resource sharing and allocation.

Recommendation 10:

Resource sharing arrangements need to be clearly spelt out and where one sector is favoured at the expense of another, compensation should be payable to the sector which loses resource access.

Conclusion

Marine resources are a public asset. They are owned and managed by the state on behalf of, and for the benefit of, all Tasmanians.

Recent years have seen a deterioration of the condition of Tasmania's coastal waters.

Australia Institute research finds that the legislative and regulatory frameworks that manage marine resource use operate in isolation and need to be modernised and integrated.

Marine spatial planning, by definition, includes all sectors and values. This tool, used correctly, provides a powerful tool to plan for the various uses of Tasmania's ocean resources as they continue to expand and compete with one another in the future. It is a core element of Integrated Ecosystem Based Management.

The salmon industry continues to receive special treatment, prioritised above all the other users of Tasmania's coastal waters, including the needs of ecosystems to remain healthy. Our coastal waters are under threat from a range of pressures including salmon farming, fishing, climate change, introduced species and pollution. The best way to address this would be to concurrently look at all activities and sectors that use our coastal waters and include them in planning and management considerations, this is the top recommendation arising from the Parliamentary Inquiry.

The salmon industry supports a move to more integrated and coordinated management of ecosystems, so that all activities or sectors that potentially have an impact are included in management considerations. We look forward to working together with the Government and industry to achieve this.

Without consideration for all of our oceans' values and activities, Tasmania's globally significant marine life will continue to suffer.

For more information, visit:

australiainstitute.org.au/about/branch/the-australia-institute-tasmania