



WWF

CONSERVATION  
PROJECT

AUS

# WWF-Australia Marine Conservation in Tasmania

Marine conservation and sustainable  
aquaculture in Tasmania



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## Background

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

How and where we produce food is, at present, one of the main causes of degradation of the natural environment.

The global aquaculture industry now produces as much food (by weight) as the global beef industry. In Australia, aquaculture produces over half of all seafood, with the Australian salmon farming industry producing approximately one-third of all fish consumed nationally. The need for aquaculture to operate sustainably and help feed humanity, is the reason that WWF-Australia has worked with the Tasmanian salmon industry since 2011. WWF is also working with the salmon aquaculture industry in Norway and Chile, and with the aquaculture industry in many other parts of the world.

**WWF's vision is for world's best salmon production that protects the marine environment in Tasmania. To achieve this:**

- **All Tasmanian salmon farmers must operate at world's best aquaculture sustainability practice. At present this is represented by the practices endorsed by the independent, global Aquaculture Stewardship Council salmon standard;**
- **The cumulative impacts of salmon farming must be minimised and ultimately eliminated; and**
- **Protection for Tasmania's exceptional marine environment, aquaculture-free zones ('no-grow zones') and other protection zones must be established through independent scientific investigation and community-wide discussion.**

**Salmon farming in Tasmania has brought real economic benefits but also had a significant environmental impact, particularly in Macquarie Harbour.**

**To give Tasmanians greater confidence that their marine environment is being protected, WWF wishes to achieve the following results:**

1. A Tasmanian aquaculture/marine conservation regulatory system that is transparent, science-based and precautionary;
2. Improved aquaculture/marine conservation compliance monitoring and research to support best practice environmental management;
3. Measures to minimise and ultimately eliminate the cumulative impacts of aquaculture, including through changes to the Aquaculture Stewardship Council salmon standard;
4. Planning and legal protection for the environmental, social and economic values of Tasmania's coastal and marine environment.



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## WWF's Strategy

### MARINE PROTECTION

Marine environmental protection, including 'no-grow zones' for aquaculture, should be informed by best practice and sound science, and take account of all uses, users and values of these resources. To this end, WWF will:

1. Establish a panel of experts and local stakeholders to assess the strengths and weaknesses of marine and coastal planning systems in Tasmania;
2. Commission an independent consultant to review marine spatial planning approaches and projects across the globe and identify best practice principles and processes;
3. Advocate for the adoption of best practice marine planning and protection in Tasmania.

### IMPROVING REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE SALMON FARMING INDUSTRY IN TASMANIA

WWF-Australia will advocate for amendments to Tasmania's regulatory regime, to ensure the responsible growth of the industry and to ensure that community expectations of science-based, transparent and precautionary decision-making, including improved access to information, are met. WWF will:

1. Work with stakeholders to prioritise and implement recommendations from the recent public enquiries and reviews into the fin-fish aquaculture industry in Tasmania<sup>1</sup>;
2. Work with government and industry and the community to define environmental data to be made available to government, industry and the community;
3. Support a panel of experts to determine a science-based, precautionary approach to managing salmon farming in Macquarie Harbour.

### IMPROVED MONITORING AND RESEARCH FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

WWF-Australia will work with government, scientists and industry to ensure that improvements in compliance monitoring are implemented swiftly, that key information gaps are addressed by rigorous scientific inquiry, particularly in Macquarie Harbour, and that appropriate management decisions are taken based on the outcomes. WWF will:

1. Secure agreement among key stakeholders on an implementation plan for the recommendations contained in the recent Macquarie Harbour reports by Cawthron<sup>2</sup> and the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS)<sup>3</sup>;
2. Participate in the implementation of recommendations;
3. Support an effective recovery plan for the endangered maugean skate (*Zearaja maugeana*).

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment\\_and\\_Communications/Fin-Fish](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/Fin-Fish)  
<sup>2</sup> [http://www.cawthron.org.nz/media\\_new/publications/pdf/2016\\_05/CawRpt\\_2729\\_-\\_Macquarie\\_Harbour\\_environmental\\_and\\_fish\\_health\\_monitoring\\_review.pdf](http://www.cawthron.org.nz/media_new/publications/pdf/2016_05/CawRpt_2729_-_Macquarie_Harbour_environmental_and_fish_health_monitoring_review.pdf)  
<sup>3</sup> [http://www.imas.utas.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/940303/IMAS-Technical-Report-on-Macquarie-Harbour-Condition.pdf](http://www.imas.utas.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/940303/IMAS-Technical-Report-on-Macquarie-Harbour-Condition.pdf)

## IMPROVING THE AQUACULTURE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL SALMON STANDARD

WWF-Australia will organise workshops with scientists, industry, certifiers, government and the community to identify opportunities to improve the salmon standard and audit process, particularly to reduce cumulative impacts, and present them to global salmon farming industry and to the Aquaculture Stewardship Council with a view to securing improvements to the salmon standard.

### Project Governance

This project is jointly funded by WWF-Australia and Tassal.

To ensure transparent decision-making, WWF-Australia will establish a steering committee of independent experts, which will report bi-annually on the implementation of project activities.

### Enquiries:

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#### Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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