



THE ROYAL YACHT CLUB OF TASMANIA

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POSITION STATEMENT ON COMMERCIAL FISH FARMING EXPANSION PLANS

22 February 2019

The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania (RYCT) was formed from modest beginnings in 1880. The RYCT is now one of the largest Yacht Clubs in Australia. The Club has a proud tradition of competitiveness on the water and an equally strong tradition of hospitality for members and visitors at the Clubhouse. The Club has a rich history and is proudly associated with events and activities relating to keel and motorboat cruising.

The RYCT notes significant public interest in expansion plans for the salmon farming industry. As a member organisation with over 1800 members involved in sailing and recreational boating, the RYCT is an important stakeholder in debates about the use and management of Tasmanian waterways.

The RYCT has undertaken a survey of its membership to help refine its position in light of recent media coverage of the industry expansion plans

The RYCT recognises the importance of the aquaculture industry to the Tasmanian economy but strongly believes that a long-term sustainable industry must take in to account the legitimate concerns of all users of Tasmania's marine environment.

The RYCT acknowledges the recently increased engagement activities undertaken by the industry but the membership of our organisation believes that consultation is required on an ongoing basis to ensure that the issues impacting on our membership community and that of other sailing clubs are adequately addressed.

The RYCT is concerned about the impact proposed expansion plans may have its members, particularly in relation to:

- Poor lighting and navigation hazards
- Increased debris in the water, some of which is a hazard to boat operations
- Potential for loss of anchorages and encroachment on cruising waters
- Impact on racing
- Impact on recreational fishing
- Impact on environmental/visual amenity

It should be noted that these concerns relate also in many instances to the existing operations of fish farms and point to areas where the industry needs to improve its performance.



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Many RYCT members also hold personal views about the environmental impact of fish farming. The RYCT however will restrict its input and expertise to engaging with the government and salmon farming companies in areas specific to its expertise – namely yachting and recreational boating.

The RYCT recommends to proponents that they engage with recreational boating clubs like RYCT much earlier in any proposed development process. This is particularly the case for expansion areas within approved marine development plans.

The RYCT is as an important stakeholder in any future developments impacting on Tasmanian waterways. The RYCT requests that the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, industry participants and regulators commit to a process to work with the Club on improving non-statutory consultative processes.

The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania receives no financial contribution from the Aquaculture industry.