



Defending our Environment

November 16, 2020

MEDIA RELEASE - with VIDEO

For immediate release: Nov 16, 2020

- 1. Huon Aquaculture and Tassal must urgently quit the Huon River**
- 2. Video (available below) shows marine life smothered by toxic nutrients stimulated by nearby salmon cages.**

The Huon Valley-based Neighbours of Fish Farming (NOFF) today called on industrial salmon producers to quit the Huon before it is completely destroyed by their reckless practices and start transitioning to land based salmon production as a matter of urgency.

Releasing a video, NOFF president, Peter George, said the footage clearly shows reefs at Huon Island being killed by algae and marine growth stimulated by toxic nutrient overloads from salmon feeding lots.

Mr George said, "Huon Aquaculture and Tassal licences demand no visible impact to marine life more than 35 metres from their leases yet Huon Island is at least 2 kilometres away from the nearest fish farm."

A 2017 IMAS study showed that industrial fish production is responsible for up to 95% of the nitrogen nutrient loads in the Huon River and the D'Entrecasteaux Channel arising from wasted fish food, faeces and ammonia.

"Marine life in the Huon and its estuary is being smothered, fish life is disappearing and the reefs are becoming dead zones all because of the salmon industry and all in breach of the rules.

“There are more than 70 fish cages containing thousands of tonnes of salmon near Huon Island yet Huon Aquaculture and Tassal deny responsibility while refusing to release data that would show their culpability.

“Where the hell is the EPA?” asked Mr George. “Is the government a regulator of this industry or a willing enabler of environmental destruction? We are looking at another Macquarie Harbour unless change happens.

“Once mainland consumers realise the environmental cost of a salmon fillet, the Tasmanian industry is going to be in crisis.”

“If Huon Aquaculture and Tassal are genuine about the jobs of their employees, they will be getting into land-based or true off-shore production as a matter of urgency, because in-shore salmon production is not sustainable, environmentally or commercially.”

“The truth is Tasmanian salmon is not clean and green. It’s dirty and destructive—and we’ll ensure that truth is going to get out to Australian consumers.”

[**Note:** Huon Aquaculture has 6 leases between 2 and 7 kilometres from Huon Island and Tassal has one nearby. Other salmon cages are situated as much as 15 kilometres up stream in the Huon River where tidal flows are extremely slow.]

For more information/comment: Peter George 0426 150 369

Video footage:

Attached:

- 1. Dive footage: contrasting clean reef marine ecosystem at Lady Bay (16 kilometres from Huon island), filmed 6 years ago, with highly polluted, dying reef at Huon Island, filmed November 3, 2020.**
- 2. Document: NOFF marine biologist’s scientific analysis of Huon Island video and comparison with Lady Bay footage.**

For higher quality/longer clips, please go to download:

- 1. Dive footage: Huon Island, November 3, 2020 with divers’ comments**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Z--UqEOzPYPJDs9DFsFdX2Ehg-jrCu0P/view?usp=sharing>

2. Brief interviews with divers: Walter Meyer, diver in the region for 30 years; and marine science student Bridget de Lange.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1atK8yvImQaZ7CErvcTmaN-HeL5uaPwjKl/view?usp=sharing>

3: Lady Bay Comparison footage from 2014

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1an5aIVqS3878uWiYmbEulgASpyURwg-B/view?usp=sharing>