



Neighbours of Fish Farming
PO Box 83, Cygnet TAS 7112
Email: secretary@noff.au
Web: <https://noff.au>
President: Peter George 0426 150 369
Email: president@noff.au
ABN 473 096 904 52

Submission on Country of origin labelling for seafood in hospitality settings

NOFF (Neighbours of Fish Farming) is a community activist group that is alarmed at the ability of our State government to roll over local communities and sell out our environment to the benefit of multinational aquaculture industries.

Our members are a diverse group of people living throughout southeast Tasmania in communities affected by the fin fish aquaculture industry in our waterways.

We are campaigning for a more sustainable and accountable industry, with stricter government regulation, and proven commitment to preserving our waterways and livelihoods into the future.

We commend the Government for this proposal. Transparency in labelling is very important, and the proposed coding is clear, simple and effective.

However we suggest that it misses one important feature indirectly mentioned in several places in the discussion paper: is the fish wild caught or farmed?

Consumers need to know how the fish they eat is produced, whether it is farmed or wild caught. This is particularly important for prawns and salmon. Farmed salmon has high levels of omega 6 fatty acids, usually contains chemicals astaxanthin and ethoxyquin, and may contain antibiotics¹. Its production often involves cruelty to marine animals, and to the salmon themselves².

The Hobart Mercury's recent *Big Issues survey* (3 January 2023³) showed nearly 55 per cent of respondents do not buy or consume Tasmanian-grown salmon. This is a very significant shift in public attitudes to farmed salmon, and shows the importance of transparency in production methods.

We suggest that a simple extension to the proposed coding could assist consumers:

- F = farmed
- W = wild caught
- FW = mixed

We also suggest that the definitions make it clear exactly what is meant by *Australian*. Consumers need to be able to identify where the fish they eat is from – now that all three salmon companies are foreign owned there is little under current Australian legislation to stop them marketing overseas sourced or processed salmon under their well-known and hard-earned brand names.

¹ <https://noff.au/frequently-asked-questions/food-quality/>

² <https://noff.au/frequently-asked-questions/animal-welfare/>

³ <https://noff.au/2023/01/03/55-percent-do-not-buy-tasmanian-salmon/>

The discussion paper says that the term is limited to fish harvested in Australia's territorial seas, or Australian freshwater bodies, or farmed onshore. This is potentially confusing unless widely and clearly publicized, as the Atlantic salmon species farmed in Tasmania are, of course, exotic and not native to anywhere in Australia's region.

Please contact me if you need more information.

Yours sincerely

Glenn Sanders

Secretary, NOFF