Salmon TASMANIA

SNAPSHOT

Why 100% land-based salmon farming is not viable in Tasmania.

- **Fish would need to be stocked at a higher densities.**
- **Tasmania does not allow the discharge of saltwater waste.**
- **The water required to merely fill the on-land tanks is estimated to be around 4.16 billion litres.**
- **The land needed would be 136 times the total pen space currently occupied by the entire Tassie salmon industry.**
- **The acquisition of such extensive parcels of industrial zoned land could not be accommodated.**
- **Land-based salmon farming in Tasmania is estimated to be 5–10 times more expensive than ocean-based farming.**
- **Tasmania's aquaculture industry supports over 5,000 direct and indirect jobs and a shift to land-based farming would likely lead to mass job losses.**
- **In the event that 100% land-based salmon farming did become commercially viable, the facilities would be built closer to market areas on the mainland. Not regional Tasmania.**
- **Despite the claims of some, less than 1% of total global salmon production (to harvest) has been produced from land-based facilities.**

The Tasmanian salmon industry believes a balance of growing our salmon on land and at sea will allow us to continue to farm sustainably and employ more local people.

- **Australia's first land-based salmon nursery that enables fish to be grown larger on land before they are transferred to sea.**
- **Current RAS facilities improve the efficiency of production cycle by reducing the time the salmon spend at sea.**
- **Increasing the length of time fish spend on land in their smolt and juvenile phase, compliments the industry's proposed growth into high energy open waters.**

FACTS

on 100% land-based salmon farming and why it will never happen here in Tasmania.

Why 100% land-based salmon farming is not viable in Tasmania.

- Fish would need to be stocked at a higher densities which will result in health and welfare issues – upwards of 10 times the current density.
- Unlike other states in Australia, Tasmania does not allow the discharge of saltwater waste, and as salmon need to spend part of their lifecycle in saltwater, this restricts how long they can be farmed on land.
- The water required to merely fill the on-land tanks is estimated to be around 4.16 billion litres (more than 160 Olympic pools) and the land needed would be 136 square kilometres. The total pen space currently occupied by the entire Tassie salmon industry is just 1 square km (the same size as Macquarie Point here in Hobart)
- The acquisition of such extensive parcels of industrial zoned land could not be accommodated and it is unclear which community or planning scheme in Tasmania would be able to accommodate such an incursion into their landscape and what red-tape for approvals to increase land-based biomass capacity would be required.
- Land-based salmon farming in Tasmania is estimated to be 5–10 times more expensive than ocean-based farming due to infrastructure costs including;
  - The energy of land-based farming in Tasmania has been calculated as the equivalent to a city with a population of 1.2 million people and would require significant power grid expansion to provide the water pumping, filtration, temperature control, and oxygenation required in addition to industrial zoned land acquisition.

These costs, along with the other impracticalities and risks would drive up salmon retail prices, making Tasmanian salmon uncompetitive.

- Tasmania's aquaculture industry supports over 5,000 direct and indirect jobs and a shift to land-based farming would likely lead to mass job losses due to unsustainable costs.
- In the event that 100% land-based salmon farming did become commercially viable, the facilities would be built closer to market areas on the mainland. **Not regional Tasmania**.

Despite the claims of some, less than 1% of total global salmon production (to harvest) has been produced from land-based facilities.

The current global leader, Atlantic Sapphire, has already seen multiple, major fish losses and in 2023 harvested just 1,545 tonnes of fish from its Miami facility, compared to global production of around 2.68 million tonnes.

The Tasmanian salmon industry believes a balance of growing our salmon on land and at sea will allow us to continue to farm sustainably and employ more local people.

- Tasmania's salmon industry has developed multiple RAS (Recirculating Aquaculture System) facilities and southern Tasmania is home to Australia's first land-based salmon nursery that enables fish to be grown larger on land before they are transferred to sea.
- These facilities improve the efficiency of production cycle by reducing the time the salmon spend at sea (from 14 months, to between 9-10 months). This also enables marine lease sites to be fallowed for longer plus the fish poo waste from this facility is being turned into compost for local farmers, orchardists and gardeners! The ultimate circular economy.
- Increasing the length of time fish spend on land in their smolt and juvenile phase, compliments the industry's proposed growth into high energy open waters.