

Department of Primary Industries and Water

GENERAL ENQUIRIES (STATEWIDE)

Ph 1300 368 550

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Devonport: PO Box 303 Devonport, TAS 7310 Australia

Launceston: PO Box 46, Kings Meadows, TAS 7249 Australia



Tasmania

Tassal Operations Pty Ltd
Mr Mark Ryan
GPO Box 1645
HOBART TAS 7001

WATER and MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION

Inquiries: Eric Brain

Phone: (03) 6233 6475

Fax: (03) 6233 3065

Email: Eric.Brain@dpiw.tas.gov.au

Our Ref: 075918, 075940, 075985, 075993,

075998, 075909, 075912, 078805, 075988,

075983, 075978, 075977, 075974, 075969,

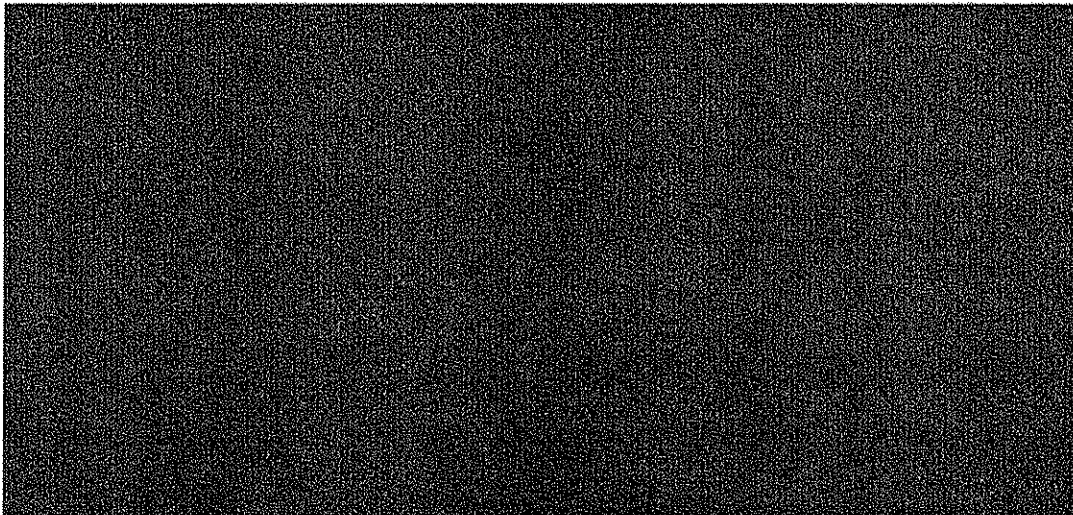
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ANNUAL VIDEO ASSESMENT

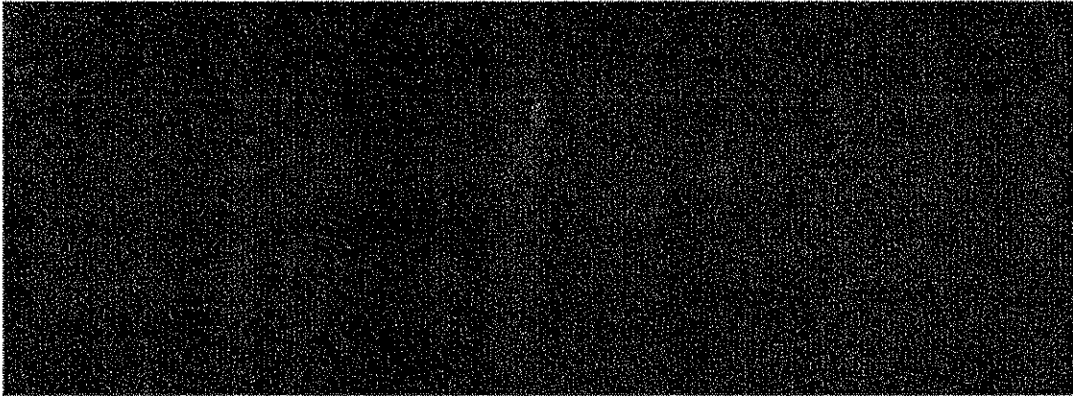
Dear Mr Ryan *Mark*

The Department has received the 2009 annual video surveys and reports for Tassal Operations Pty Ltd (Tassal) marine farming leases. The Department has assessed these reports and reviewed the video footage supplied by Aquenal Pty Ltd. Departmental representatives have also met with Craig Selkirk of your company to review the results of the surveys and discuss current and ongoing management strategies for all Tassal marine farming lease areas.

Although there has been some improvement in the general condition of sediments at lease sites since the 2008 surveys, the footage submitted this year indicated that five leases have sediment impacts that are unacceptable and constitute a breach of licence conditions.



Lease No. 214 at Liberty Central showed spontaneous outgassing at one pen bay (Position 12). Tassal advised the Department that this pen bay has been fallowed and will not be restocked until after the next video survey in early 2010 and therefore there is no requirement for a follow up survey.



As you would be aware, the presence of spontaneous outgassing from sediments constitutes a breach of licence conditions and it is evident that is an issue of concern, particularly at sites where mooring grids are not being shifted. In such cases it must be reiterated that visual evidence of sediment recovery will be required by the Department prior to the restocking of affected pen bays at these sites. In the event that affected pen bays are re-stocked for any length of time without prior approval from the Department, an infringement notice may be issued.

I note advice from Tassal outlining a review of feeding strategies along with reduced farming intensity at some sites as a strategy to improve the environmental management of the sediments within lease areas. Undertaking video surveys at six monthly intervals at sites of concern should help mitigate the risk of unacceptable impacts developing. I am encouraged by the proactive steps that Tassal is taking with regard to its site management and look forward to seeing improvements in sediment conditions at affected sites.

The next round of video surveys for Tassal lease sites will be in early 2010. Any queries in relation to these survey or other environmental issues should be directed to the Marine Farming Branch on 6233 3370.

Yours sincerely

Robert Gott

DIRECTOR MARINE RESOURCES

July 2009

Cc: Mr Mark Asman Tassal Operations P/L
Mr Hank Poeschl Tassal Operations P/L
Mr Craig Selkirk Tassal Operations P/L

Department of Primary Industries and Water

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Our Ref: 075994, 075996

5 June 2007

Sevrup Fisheries Pty Ltd
Mr Les Scott
PO Box 146E
EAST DEVONPORT TAS 7310

Dear Mr Scott

ANNUAL VIDEO ASSESMENT

DPIW has received the annual video survey and report for Lease No's 215 Table Head and 217 Liberty Point, as conducted by Aquenal Pty Ltd. The report and video have been assessed by the Department and satisfy the requirements of the survey. I draw your attention to the fact that the level of organic enrichment at Lease No. 217 has resulted in significant impacts and breaches of licence conditions.

Lease 217

All pen bays showed significant organic enrichment in the form of either dark sediments, *Dorvellid sp*, *Beggiatoa sp*, out gassing on disturbance or spontaneous outgassing. Pen Bays 84 and 96 were spontaneously outgassing, this constitutes a breach of licence condition and requires immediate fallowing of these pen bays to allow site recovery.

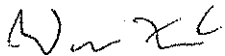
DPIW has consulted with the site manager regarding the fallowing of these sites and understands that these pen bays will be fallowed for an extended period as the expanded area of Lease No. 217 is occupied. If stocking plans change and you anticipate that these sites will need to be occupied, a follow up survey of the pen bays will be required prior to restocking.

The next annual video surveys for these sites are due in January 2009. If you would like to discuss these assessments further or have any further environmental management issues please contact Eric Brain on 6233 6475.

Lease 215

Pen bays 10, 29 and 30 showed organic enrichment in the form of dark sediments, *Dorvellid sp* and *Beggiatoa sp*. You should ensure that fallow periods are sufficiently long enough to allow sediment recovery at these pen sites.

Yours sincerely



Wes Ford

GENERAL MANAGER (PRIMARY INDUSTRIES)

cc: Mr Barry McClure PO Box 100 Strahan 7468

Department of Primary Industries and Water

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075977, 075974, 075973

22 May 2008

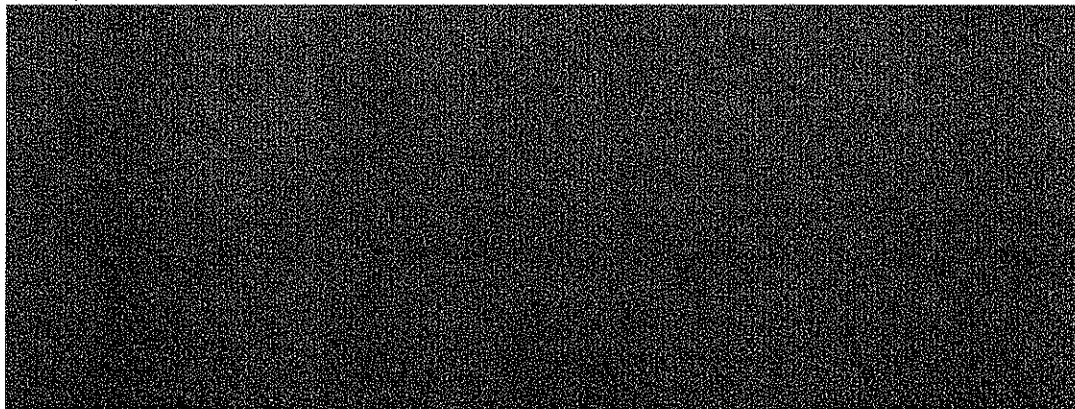
Tassal Operations Pty Ltd
Mr Mark Ryan
GPO Box 1645
HOBART TAS 7001

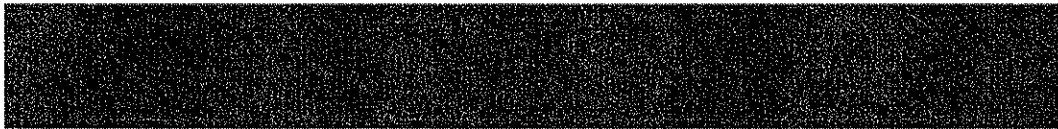
Dear Mark

The Department has received the video surveys and reports for marine farming lease areas that required monitoring to be conducted in 2008. The Department has assessed these reports and viewed footage supplied by Aquenal P/L.

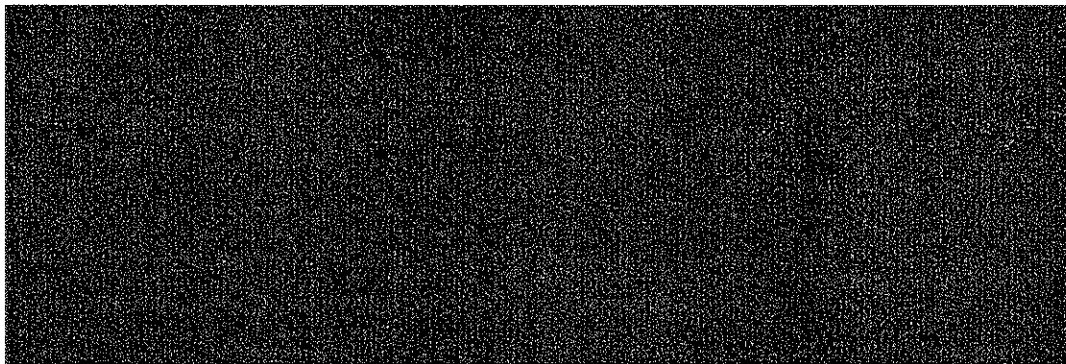
Whilst the reports and video footage satisfy survey requirements again it was evident that the video footage was of variable quality. The footage for a number of sites was of poor quality and although it was possible to assess for compliance purposes future footage must be clear and well lit as per licence requirements.

There are a number of issues identified through the assessment of the surveys that I would like to draw to your attention. Video footage for a number of lease sites showed unacceptable impacts within pen bays. There has been a marked increase in unacceptable impacts to the substrate beneath pen bays when compared to surveys conducted in 2007. This is clearly an operational issue that needs to be addressed by Tassal Operations P/L as a priority. The following lease sites showed unacceptable impacts:





Lease No. 219 at South Central Harbour, showed spontaneous gas bubbling from two pen bays and gas bubbling on disturbance from two pen bays. One compliance spot dive outside the lease area also showed signs of organic enrichment that may be attributable to finfish culture. Department inspections conducted in 2006 found cages located outside the lease area in the vicinity of this impact. Given that cages have now been repositioned, and that this impact is likely to be due to an incorrectly positioned cage the Department will not require a video survey of this site outside of the lease area until 2009. Not with standing this, a resurvey of the impacted pen bays on this lease area is required prior to it being restocked.



Discussions have taken place between the Department and Tassal Operations P/L representatives with regard to the reported breaches of licence conditions. I understand that Tassal Operations P/L has committed to following all relevant pen bays until the next round of video surveys in 2009, with exception of the affected pen bays at [REDACTED], which will require a follow up survey prior to restocking. These discussions also provided positive information on mitigation methods being employed by Tassal Operations P/L to reduce impacts to the substrate beneath cages.

The next video surveys for Tassal Operations P/L lease sites are due in January and February of 2009. Any queries in relation to environmental management should be directed to the Marine Environment Section on 6233 3370.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wes Ford'.

Wes Ford
GENERAL MANAGER (PRIMARY INDUSTRIES)

Cc: Mr Mark Asman Tassal Operations P/L
Mr Hank Poesch Tassal Operations P/L



Tasmania

DEPARTMENT of
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
and WATER

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES DIVISION

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075988, 075983, 075978, 075977, 075974, 075973,
075972, 075971, 075970

8 August 2006

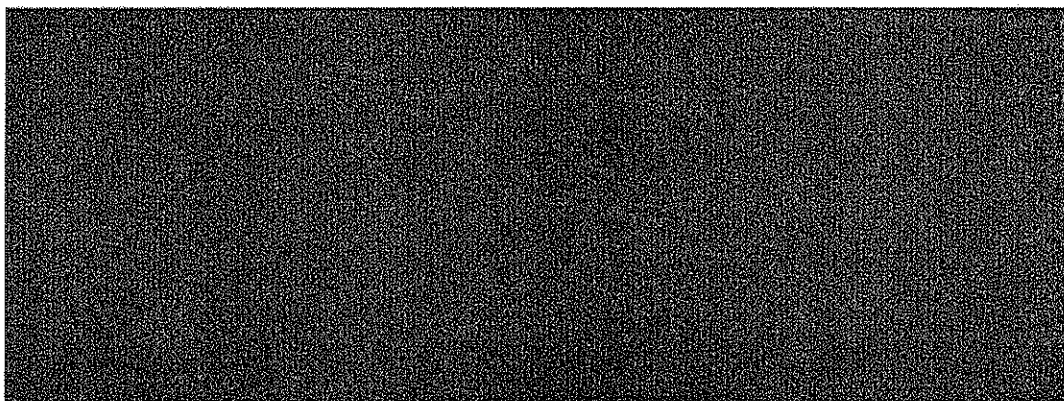
Tassal Operations Pty Ltd
Mr Mark Ryan
GPO Box 1645
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Mr Ryan

ASSESSMENT OF VIDEO SURVEYS

The Department has received video surveys and reports for marine farming Lease Nos. 76, 77, 90, 94, 110, 142, 154, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 193, 194, 201, 209, 214, 216 and 219.

The Department has now assessed these reports and viewed the video footage supplied by Aquenal Pty Ltd. The surveys revealed visible unacceptable environmental impacts at three of the 35m compliance points located on Lease No. 214 in Macquarie Harbour. There a number of issues identified through the assessment of the surveys that I would like to draw to your attention.



Marine Farming Lease 214:

The video survey of Lease No. 214 revealed visible unacceptable environmental impacts at three out of the six 35m compliance points. This impact consisted of *Beggiatoa sp* located at three compliance sites. Two of the compliance points were

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located on the northern boundary of Lease No. 214 and the *Beggiatoa sp* consisted of faint patches that may be attributed to a cage previously being located outside the lease area. These sites will be continued to be monitored by future video surveys. The third compliance point was located on the southern boundary and consisted of a significant mat of *Beggiatoa sp*. Discussion with Tassal Operations staff could not attribute this impact directly to cages. A follow up survey is required to determine the extent of the impact. Specifications have been set and supplied to Tassal Operations and the environmental consultant Aquenal Pty Ltd.

In general all other lease sites are performing well with localised impacts noted at a number of the farm dive sites. Regional managers should be conscious of ensuring that farming debris are not allowed to be released in to the marine environment.

The next video surveys for Tassal Operations lease sites are due in January and February of 2007. Any queries in relation to environmental management should be directed to the Marine Environment Section on 6233 3370.

Yours sincerely



Wes Ford

GENERAL MANAGER (PRIMARY INDUSTRIES)

Cc David keimele, Tassal Operations Pty Ltd



Tasmania

DEPARTMENT of
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES,
WATER and ENVIRONMENT

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Our ref : 075995, 075993

6 April 2005

Mr Richard Doedens
Russfal Pty Ltd
340 Davey Street
SOUTH HOBART TAS 7004

Dear Mr Doedens

**ASSESSMENT OF THE ANNUAL VIDEO SURVEYS FOR MARINE FARMING
LEASE NO. 216 BACKAGAIN POINT AND LEASE NO. 214 LIBERTY POINT
CENTRAL.**

The Department has received the annual video surveys and reports for marine farming Lease No. 216 Backagain Point and Lease No. 214 Liberty Point Central. The Department has now assessed the reports and digital video conducted by Aquenal Pty Ltd. The reports and videos have covered all the requirements of the video survey schedule and therefore the Department accepts the reports.

Lease No. 216 Backagain Point.

The video survey found *Beggiatoa* spp patches at compliance point 4.2 and compliance point 4.3. This constitutes a significant impact at 35 metre compliance sites as defined in marine farming licence conditions. This breach will require a follow up survey to determine the extent of the impact outside the lease boundary. This survey is scheduled for June 2005. Survey requirements will be provided prior to this date.

Beggiatoa spp was also noted on farm dives 1 and 6

Lease No. 214 Liberty Point Central.

The video survey found *Beggiatoa* spp patches at compliance points 1.2 and 1.3. This constitutes a significant impact at 35 metre compliance sites as defined in marine farming licence conditions. This breach will require a follow up survey to determine the extent of the impact outside the lease boundary. This survey should be conducted at the same time as the follow up survey for Lease No. 216.

Polychaete worms *Ophryotrocha* sp were noted at farm sites 1, 2, and 3.

The lease operator should note the impacts to the substrate and ensure that all pen bays are fallowed adequately.

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Follow up surveys of both Lease No's 214 and 216 must be conducted in June 2005.
If you have any questions in relation to the assessment of this report please call Eric
Brain on 6233 6475.

Yours sincerely



Wes Ford
GENERAL MANAGER (PRIMARY INDUSTRIES)
Cc Trevor Dix
Tassal Ltd

Wes Ford
3/12/05