

Managing **Marine** Farming: have we achieved best practice?

8 March 2012, 9am – 5pm
Stanley Burbury Theatre, University of Tasmania

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

8:00: Registrations (Foyer, Stanley Burbury Theatre)

9:00: Duncan Kerr SC

Welcome

9:10: His Excellency, The Honourable Peter Underwood AC, Governor of Tasmania

Opening Address

9:20: Gerard Castles

Tasmanian brand issues associated with current aquaculture practice

Gerard will discuss the role of the Tasmanian brand in aquaculture marketing, the responsibilities of living up to the brand proposition and a pathway for industry into the future.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

9:45: Dr Hamish Rennie

International approaches to marine spatial planning

Hamish will provide an overview of current spatial planning approaches in the UK, USA and New Zealand, and discuss the significant lessons that can be learned from the New Zealand experience. His presentation aims to identify key planning issues and the likely outcomes from different approaches to addressing those issues.

Morning tea

11:00: Wes Ford

Overview of the regulatory framework in Tasmania

Wes will discuss the Tasmanian government's current approach to planning, assessment and monitoring for aquaculture projects under the *Marine Farming Planning Act 1995*.

11:25: Tom Baxter

Do recent amendments to the Marine Farming Planning Act 1995 represent good governance?

Tom will examine the recent changes to the decision making framework for marine farming planning, and discuss whether the changes reflect best practice.

11:50: Jon Bryan

The case for integration of marine farming planning and the mainstream planning system

Jon will outline concerns regarding lack of accountability, transparency and meaningful public participation in planning for aquaculture development, presenting some practical examples of where planning outcomes have not been best practice.

Jon will also discuss conservation concerns about current practices in relation to seal management.

Lunch

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

1:45: Dr John Volpe

Achieving best practice global standards through performance monitoring and accreditation

John will discuss best practice approaches to marine farming management, and the benefits and difficulties associated with accreditation programmes. He will also outline the use of tools such as the Global Aquaculture Performance Index to assess local, regional and international performance against best practice standards.

2:30: Industry Perspectives

Dr Adam Main

Salmon Farming in Tasmania: current practices and operations

Adam will review the current status of the Tasmanian salmon industry. He will discuss how the industry is striving for global best practice, and how it is performing locally and comparing globally.

Jeffrey Whayman

Experiences with regulation and monitoring in the shellfish industry

Afternoon tea

3:20: Dr Tom Lewis and Maree Fudge

Social Returns of Marine Farming

Tom and Maree will explore the potential for the Social Return on Investment methodology to facilitate constructive dialogue between industry and affected communities with respect to identifying values and designing and evaluating planning and development processes.

3:45: Dr Catriona MacLeod

Science in support of sustainable aquaculture: An overview of current IMAS Environmental Research

Catriona will discuss the ongoing role of IMAS in providing research to inform sustainable industry development and the regulatory framework, and outline examples of research undertaken to date and initiatives currently in progress.

4:15: Christine Coughanowr

Derwent Estuary Program: A case study of a collaborative science-based partnership to restore the Derwent

Christine will discuss the development and implementation of the Derwent Estuary Program, and the role of all stakeholders in monitoring, managing and reporting on water quality and other environmental issues affecting the Derwent Estuary.

4:40: Duncan Kerr SC

Conference summary and wrap up

5:00: Conference close

SPEAKER PROFILES

His Excellency, Hon Peter Underwood AC

His Excellency, the Honourable Peter Underwood AC, was sworn in as Tasmania's 27th Governor on 2 April 2008. He was a judge of the Supreme Court of Tasmania from 1984 – 2004, when he was appointed Chief Justice. He remained as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court until he assumed the Office of Governor.

CONFERENCE MC

Duncan Kerr SC

Duncan Kerr SC was Federal Member for Denison from 1987 – 2010. He was the Federal Labor Government's Attorney General and Minister for Justice from 1993 – 1996, held a variety of Shadow Ministry roles, and was Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs until his retirement from politics.

Duncan has returned to work as a barrister with Michael Kirby Chambers, where he maintains a successful practice in areas including Constitutional and Administrative Law, Human Rights and Planning Law.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr Hamish Rennie

Dr Rennie has a BSc (Hon) in Coastal Geomorphology, Masters in Fisheries Geography, and a PhD on the geographical development of marine farming in New Zealand and the effects of different legislative and planning regimes on marine farmers' decision-making.

Since 2007, Dr Rennie has been research head of Human Dimensions of Fisheries and Aquaculture at Lincoln University's Land, Environment and People Research Centre. Prior to entering academia, he gained considerable experience in government policy development, including working for the Department of Conservation on the interface between aquaculture and coastal planning legislation in the early 1990s.

Dr John Volpe

Dr Volpe is a native of Toronto and holds a BSc.(Hon) and MSc. in Molecular Ecology and a PhD in Population and Invasion Ecology.

Dr Volpe currently leads the Seafood Ecology Research Group at the University of Victoria, British Columbia. He and his students use data intensive approaches to uncover linkages between ecological and social sustainability in marine-based food production systems, particularly aquaculture. As well as the group's Global Aquaculture Performance Index initiative, Dr Volpe's research areas include salmon, sablefish and bivalve aquaculture, and the application of complex systems theory to issues of sustainability.

Gerard Castles

Gerard Castles is a business consultant who has helped clients in the manufacturing, banking, telecommunications, construction and mining industries deal with issues as varied as post-merger management, service improvement, restructuring, enterprise bargaining and brand repositioning.

Gerard was a member of the Tasmanian Community Leaders Group established under the Bacon Government to develop a long-term vision and strategic plan for Tasmania. Through that process Gerard learned that Tasmanians saw a brave future for Tasmania as an icon for the rest of the world – not just in words, but in reality.

Wes Ford

Wes Ford is the General Manager of the Water and Marine Resources Division of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment. In this role he has responsibility for issues ranging from marine farming, recreational and commercial fisheries to water management and dam safety. Wes holds the statutory delegations of the Minister and the Secretary for the associated legislation.

Wes has previously held the positions of General Manager of the Primary Industries Division, Director of Marine Resources, and Manager of the Tasmanian Rock Lobster Fishery. Wes has a Bachelor of Science and post graduate qualifications in fisheries and public sector administration.

Tom Baxter

Tom Baxter, BEc / LLB(Hons), LLM, FCIS, is a lecturer in the School of Accounting and Corporate Governance at the University of Tasmania. Tom previously worked as Legal Officer for the Australian Government's Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Prior to that, he practised in commercial litigation with Hobart firm, Dobson, Mitchell & Allport.

Jon Bryan

Jon Bryan has had a life-long fascination with the marine environment and has been diving in the waters around Tasmania for more than 30 years. Jon studied marine biology, ecology and fisheries science and puts that knowledge to use in his campaign work for the Tasmanian Conservation Trust on sustainable fisheries management and other marine issues.

Through work with the Tasmanian Conservation Trust, Jon has had considerable experience with aquaculture planning in Tasmania since the *Marine Farming Planning Act 1995* was introduced. Jon has also observed fish farming in Canada, Ireland, South Australia and the United States.

Dr Tom Lewis and Maree Fudge

Dr Tom Lewis and Maree Fudge are co-owners of RDS Partners Pty Ltd, a Tasmanian consulting company oriented to facilitate positive social, economic and environmental outcomes in rural and regional Australia.

Maree has been with the business since 2010 and brings a focus on organisational management, research and development and evaluation, including a special focus on social impact. Tom has a PhD in microbial production of omega 3 fatty acids, "the good oils", and has been with RDS since 2005. For the past 25 years, Tom has worked across a spectrum of commercial and academic roles in the seafood industry.

Dr Adam Main

Dr Adam Main is Chief Executive Officer at the Tasmanian Salmonid Growers Association (TSGA), a not for profit organisation established by grower members over 20 years ago. Dr Main is also a Director on the Boards for the National Aquaculture Council, the Tasmanian Aquaculture Council and Seafood Training Tasmania. Prior to joining the TSGA, Dr Main worked at an executive level with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and as a Divisional Manager for Greening Australia. Dr Main completed a double major degree in Marine Biology and Natural Resource Management and also holds a PhD in the field of Community Ecology.

Jeffrey Whayman

Jeffrey Whayman has been in the seafood industry from the age of 15. As a third generation fisherman, he started working in the crayfish and abalone industries and has been involved in aquaculture for nearly 25 years growing scallops, mussels and oysters. Jeff currently owns and operates a small oyster farm at Great Bay and is President of the Bruny Island Shellfish Growers. He is a former chairman of the Tasmanian Mussel Growers Association, and current vice-chair of the Tasmanian Shellfish Executive Council.

Dr Catriona MacLeod

Dr Catriona Macleod is a senior research fellow and deputy leader of the Estuaries and Coasts program at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania. Catriona has worked in environmental research in Scotland and Tasmania for over 20 years.

The research outputs from the team at IMAS have informed environmental management of aquaculture locally, nationally and internationally. Recent research outputs with respect to benthic recovery processes have been used to support international standards and management guidelines for both aquaculture and coastal systems more broadly.

Christine Coughanowr

Christine Coughanowr (MSc Geology) has been involved in monitoring, managing and reporting on water quality in Tasmanian estuaries and rivers for nearly 20 years. She has worked as a consultant in the USA and at UNESCO and, in 2001, received a Churchill fellowship to visit estuary management programs overseas.

Christine is currently Director of the Derwent Estuary Program, which was awarded the National Riverprize by the International River Foundation in 2010.