**The Tasmanian Independent Science Council**

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**Instigators of the Fin Fish Farming Inquiry Celebrate Final Report**

**Key points:**

* Dr Lisa Gershwin and Christine Coughanowr, both members of the Tasmanian Independent Science Council, were scientists who instigated the Fin Fish Farming Tasmania Inquiry. Their request to Parliament was based on scientific evidence and community concerns about the degradation of Tasmania’s coastal waters as a result of fin fish farming.
* The Legislative Council Committee has released its [Final Report](https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ctee/Council/Reports/inq.finfish.rep.20220519.FINALREPORT.jm.001.pdf) on the Inquiry. It recommends:
	+ Develop a revised Sustainable Industry Growth Plan for the Salmon Industry as part of a marine plan for Tasmania, to be designed through a marine spatial planning process. Until this is complete, the industry should not expand.
	+ A plan should be developed to reduce inshore fin fish farming sites.
	+ Environmental licence conditions for all existing and new fin fish farms should be reviewed and include defined limits of total biomass, dissolved nitrogen and other key nutrients.
	+ An independent review of the fees, levies and penalties for the industry should be conducted.
	+ An independent review of the impacts of fin fish operations on inland waterways should be conducted, and state-wide Water Quality Objectives developed.

“I commend the Legislative Council Committee on the release of the Final Report and its recommendations”, Dr Lisa Gershwin, a biologist who is one of the world’s foremost authorities on jellyfish, said.

“This Report gives our native species and Tasmanian communities affected by fin fish farming a voice.

“Given the overwhelming scientific data and community concern on fin fish farming, this Report is appropriate and responsible. If the Tasmanian Government implements these recommendations, we will be on track to managing our marine resources sustainably.

“I’ve collected evidence of the problem of jellyfish blooms worsening progressively over the last twenty-five years. These blooms are extremely costly for the industry and devastating for native species who live in the ocean. This appears to be a case of the Tasmanian salmon industry suffering from its own success.”

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