

Our Environment

Understanding our environmental impacts is a key focus for Tassal.

Maintaining and improving environmentally robust business practices is a high priority for us and is a fundamental platform of our sustainability strategy. We aim to protect, conserve and enhance the environment for current and future generations. Where possible, we implement a precautionary principle based on risk mitigation. If the principle is not practical or meaningful to the proposed activity, we take an adaptive management approach.

In 2013, Tassal achieved certification at all six marine farming regions to the Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) Salmon Farm standard and Seafood Processing standard. Shortly Tassal will be announcing that we have achieved Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) certification across our farming regions. ASC is viewed as the gold standard in responsible farming and Tassal is the first aquaculture company globally to have all their sites certified.



Ecological Interactions

Managing our interaction with the marine environment and sensitive habitat, fish health management, wildlife interactions and escape fish management all serve to reduce ecological impacts and the potential effects on biodiversity.

We use sophisticated modelling and monitoring programs to understand changes in near field and far field water quality as result of our farming operations and are investing heavily into research in this area. Tassal also supports and is actively involved in multiple ecological research projects.

Protecting our Wildlife

Protecting our unique Tasmanian wildlife is an integral to how we manage our business.

Seal and bird interactions inevitably occur at our salmon farms, as our farmed salmon is a tempting protein rich source.

Our two full-time wildlife management officers and team of staff responsibly manage these interactions between wildlife and our salmon.

All wildlife interactions are reported in our annual Sustainability Reports, and through our voluntary Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) reporting requirements.

Waste, Energy and Water

At Tassal, we are committed to appropriately managing and minimising the waste, energy and water that is used across our operations.

Waste

Salmon farming, processing and packaging produces a number of waste streams. Our goal is to find innovative ways to minimise and manage the waste that we create. We are a signatory to and supporter of the Australian Packaging Covenant (APC) and the principles of the Sustainable Packaging Guidelines (SPG).

FISH WASTE

Fish waste is the most significant of our waste streams. Fish waste storage and collection facilities are located at our factories and shore based marine operational centres. Factory fish waste and fish farm mortalities are then used for rendering (fish oil extraction and fish meal production). Fish waste is also used for composting and soil injection.



PACKAGING WASTES

Packaging waste includes soft plastics, polystyrene, cardboard and paper. Polystyrene is returned to our supplier for recycling, along with much of the clear soft plastic that is used for clean container transport. The materials are recycled by a third party. We also recycle cardboard and soft plastics at our two value added processing factories.



Marine farming wastes include metals, hard plastics and fish food contaminated bulk feedbags (polypropylene). Hard plastics (polyethylene) are generally from pipes that are used for feed distribution and water supply on farms. Bulk bags are used for feed supply, fish and bird nets, rope, and fish farm cages. Plastics that do not have a ready alternative application or are readily recyclable, such as fish pen stanchions and broken buoys, have generally ended in landfill. These are now being chipped and sold onto a plastic fabrications company.



Tassal no longer used copper anti-foulant on its nets; these days we wash our nets "in-situ" during the production cycle. We use innovative, remote controlled net cleaning technology that add negligible amounts of organic material to the marine environment.

We are exploring beneficial reuse options for our old, copper treated nets to avoid disposal. For more information on our waste management practices, read our 2013 Sustainability Report.

COPPER TREATED NETS & MARINE ORGANICS

MARINE FARMING WASTES

Approximately 20% of fish feed bags are sent for export recycling from our West Coast operations. Our aim is to eventually divert this entire waste stream to recycling.

