



Minister Jo Palmer MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Water
Public Building, 53 St John Street
Launceston TAS 7250

11 December 2023

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Oysters Tasmania board, I request that you set the amount of ShellMAP levy payable in 2024 so as to reflect a change in the distribution of payments between marine farm licence holders authorised to take bivalve shellfish.

- The requested change is outlined in the attachment.
- No request is made regarding how much revenue is collected in total, or how much commercial fishing licence holders pay.

The change would involve the introduction of a user-pays system, where the marine farm licence holder is charged for costs incurred in their bay. Such a user-pays system would promote efficient industry growth and cost discipline.

However, so that no marine farm licence holder is markedly worse off than in previous years, the user-pays component would only gather 10 per cent of the revenue required from the bivalve marine farming sector, and the current arrangement (involving an equal charge per marine farm licence) would gather the remaining 90 per cent.

Moreover, to encourage development in new harvest areas within existing marine farming development plan areas, the ShellMAP levy would not apply to marine farm licences in the first year of a new harvest area. This would mean that sampling and testing costs associated with a new harvest area would be temporarily paid for by bivalve marine farm licence holders in other, established harvest areas.



There is broad support for the change.

- There are currently 41 marine farm licence holders authorised to take bivalve shellfish, who together pay 96 ShellMAP levies.
 - These 41 entities consist of 40 Pacific oyster farmers, represented by Oysters Tasmania, and one mussel farmer.
- 33 of these entities, holding a total of 85 licences, have advised Oysters Tasmania of their support of the proposal.
- 4 entities, holding a total of 6 licences, have advised of their opposition.
- 4 entities, holding a total of 5 licences, abstained or did not respond.

This letter has been copied to each marine farm licence holder authorised to take bivalve shellfish.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Duncan Spender".

Duncan Spender
CEO, Oysters Tasmania



Amount of ShellMAP levy payable by marine farm licence holders authorised to take bivalve shellfish

The amount of ShellMAP levy payable in 2024 with respect to a marine farm licence authorising the taking of bivalve shellfish shall be the sum of a cost-based component and an equal-per-licence component.

As an exception to this, no ShellMAP levy will be payable in 2024 with respect to a marine farm licence in a harvest area that was not a harvest area for the duration of the previous regulatory period.

Cost-based component

The cost-based component with respect to a marine farm licence authorising the taking of bivalve shellfish shall be:

10 per cent of the total revenue required from marine farm licence holders authorised to take bivalve shellfish,

multiplied by the ShellMAP sampling and testing costs in the 2023 calendar year attributed to that licence,

divided by the ShellMAP sampling and testing costs in the 2023 calendar year attributed to all marine farm licences authorising the taking of bivalve shellfish.

Cost attribution

The ShellMAP sampling and testing costs in the 2023 calendar year attributed to a marine farm licence authorising the taking of bivalve shellfish shall be the sum of a biotoxin component and a non-biotoxin component.

- The biotoxin component shall be the biotoxin testing costs (including phytoplankton testing) in the 2023 calendar year attributed to the biotoxin management area the licence is in, multiplied by the licence's share of the hectares of licensed leases in the biotoxin management area in the 2023 calendar year.
- The non-biotoxin component shall be the non-biotoxin sampling and testing costs in the 2023 calendar year attributed to the harvest area the licence is in, multiplied by the licence's share of the hectares of licensed leases in the harvest area in the 2023 calendar year.



Equal-per-licence component

The equal-per-licence component with respect to a marine farm licence authorising the taking of bivalve shellfish shall be:

ninety per cent of the total revenue required from marine farm licence holders authorised to take bivalve shellfish,

divided by the number of marine farm licences authorising the taking of bivalve shellfish.