Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
MARINE RESOURCES

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Our ref: D26-150818

Tasmanian Government

Mr. Duncan Spender
Chief Executive Officer
Oysters Tasmania
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Dear Duncan

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) has received a proposal to translocate Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) from South Australia to Tasmania. The proposal includes importing South Australian broodstock into the Australian Seafood Industries (ASI) biosecure facility at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) in Taroona, producing progeny from both South Australian and Tasmanian broodstock, and subsequently releasing progeny into Tasmanian and South Australian waters.

In assessing this proposal, NRE Tas is required to consider the interests of the wider Tasmanian oyster farming industry. As such, the Department is seeking comment from Oysters Tasmania on the aspects relating to the release of progeny into Tasmanian waters (within ASI affiliated marine farming areas).

The proposal includes importing up to 544 adult Pacific oyster broodstock from South Australia and holding them at the ASI facility in Taroona for a controlled selective breeding program. This involves broodstock conditioning, strip spawning and spat rearing. Biosecurity Tasmania has assessed the importation request and issued a permit to import South Australian Pacific oyster broodstock into Tasmania on 28 July 2026. The permit includes conditions relating to the importation, handling, biosecurity testing, and containment of the broodstock to manage biosecurity risks.

In addition to this, Marine Resources will assess the proposed release of progeny into Tasmanian waters as a separate activity. ASI have been asked to complete a risk assessment to assess any genetic risks that may be associated with the release of progeny into Tasmania's marine environment. This risk assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the National Policy Guidelines for the Translocation of Live Aquatic Animals and will be reviewed by both Biosecurity Tasmania and Marine Resources (NRE Tasmania) as part of the assessment process.

Oysters Tasmania is invited to seek feedback from its membership including operators within ASI growing regions and provide comment by 17 August 2026 or earlier if convenient.

Please contact Jackson Doherty (0475 557 170) or Bronagh Kelly (0423 074 442) for any further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely

Edward Forbes
A/DIRECTOR, AQUACULTURE

3 August 2026