



Sea for yourself 

TECHNICAL FACTS



# Health Management – Salmon

## Every pen, every day.

We have fish health management plans in place for each of our regional farming zones to ensure appropriate disease management and prevention.

Our sites are visited regularly by members of our Fish Health team, including our two company veterinarians.

We implement third-party certification standards across our operations including the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) salmon standard. Under this standard we must comply with strict requirements to record and classify 100% of our mortalities. We need to be able to demonstrate that we are working hard to reduce mortalities, track disease and have farm specific plans to reduce both disease and mortalities.

Our feed centre allows us to use remote technology to complete routine checks to improve stock health and security by monitoring for threats such as jellyfish, seals and storm events.

## Biosecurity

Implementing, maintaining, and monitoring biosecurity controls is an important part of disease management. We incorporate biosecurity measures into our fish health and welfare plans, as well as having specific standard operating procedures and policies in place. Biosecurity is built into every level of decision making across all of our operations, from planning our fish stocking on leases (i.e. single year classes and fallowing), right down to how and when equipment and vessels are cleaned and disinfected. We use random audits, education of our team members, positive release forms and information technology systems to facilitate and monitor appropriate biosecurity measures.

We have seen a decrease in outbreaks across our farms over the past three years.

Outbreaks	
FY19	4 (POMV* Channel, POMV Storm Bay, POMV Southern, RLO** Okehampton)
FY20	2 (RLO Macquarie Harbour, RLO Okehampton)

## Vaccinations

We now vaccinate all our fish before they go to sea, and we customise the vaccination package to suit the farms they are going to so that each fish is immunised against those pathogens we know may cause disease in the specific area of the farm in question. We monitor vaccine efficacy and work with the government animal health laboratory to monitor vaccinated pathogens for any changing presentation. Tassal also directly funds and collaborates in research to improve animal health & welfare outcomes.

In 2021 all fish put to sea were vaccinated against POMV and zone specific endemic pathogens. We also continue to support financially and in-kind the ongoing development of new multivalent vaccines.

## Survival FY20

Freshwater	88.5%
Marine	95.5%

## Regulatory requirements

All Tasmanian salmon farmers must report as soon as possible any suspected or known incidents of disease or mortality affecting greater than 0.25 per cent of fish per day for three consecutive days in any individual cage.

We have a dedicated information technology system to ensure we can monitor mortality rates in real time to ensure timely response and accurate reporting.

*\*Pilchard orthomyxovirus (POMV) is the most important infectious disease in the Tasmanian salmon industry. This disease causes sporadic outbreaks in naïve stock and is considered endemic.*

*\*\*Rickettsia-like organism – Tasmanian RLO, an endemic bacteria that unlike other bacteria live within cells rather than between them.*

