

Environment Protection Authority

GPO Box 1550 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia

Enquiries: Megan Burgoyne
Phone: +61 3 6165 4592
Email: Megan.Burgoyne@epa.tas.gov.au
Web: www.epa.tas.gov.au
Our Ref: D22-448702



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

20 February 2023

Mr Henry Batista
Chief Executive Officer
Southern Ocean Trout Pty Ltd
ACN 009 488 797
GPO Box 987
HOBART TAS 7001

Email: compliance@huonaqua.com.au

Dear Mr Batista

ASSESSMENT OF FOUR MONTHLY VIDEO SURVEY MF267 (EAST OF BUTT OF LIBERTY) – SEPTEMBER 2022

Thank you for forwarding the four monthly video survey (4MVS) report and footage for Marine Farming Lease No. 267 (East of Butt of Liberty). The report and video footage have been assessed and I am satisfied that the requirements of the prescribed video survey have been met.

Assessment of the video footage has been undertaken against the environmental standards as specified in the Environmental Licence (EL) Document No. 9896/2 Issued under the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*.

Eight compliance sites were surveyed on 13 September 2022. All of the compliance sites were found to be compliant with the visual impact conditions for locations at or beyond 35m from the boundary of the lease area as outlined under GI (1.1.1) in the Environmental Licence (EL9896/2) for this lease.

I am, however, concerned that numerous opportunistic polychaetes, were observed to be present at one compliance site (CP5.2) adjacent to the southern grid where 9 of the 10 available pen bays were stocked. Opportunistic polychaetes, and in particular colonising dorvilleids, are considered an indicator of significant organic enrichment.

On 7 April 2015, the Secretary of the (then) Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (Our ref: H389576/003) advised that the presence of Dorvilleids does not trigger a management response. This approach is currently under review by the EPA.

In order to investigate dorvilleid numbers and potential distribution around MF267, this office included additional video survey requirements in relation to the January 2023 four monthly video survey (additional compliance points to be surveyed, and extent surveys if dorvilleids are identified). These requirements were outlined in the survey specifications forwarded to your Marine Environment Manager, [REDACTED], on 6 January 2023. I understand that these surveys have since been completed and are currently being assessed by the company.

If you have any queries regarding the video survey assessment, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Burgoyne on 6165 4592.

Yours sincerely



Darryl Cook
DIRECTOR FINFISH COMPLIANCE
Delegate for the Director, Environment Protection Authority



RTI - DL - RELEASE - EPA