

Report for Tassal Operations Pty Ltd: NW Bay Region, MF 94 The Sheppards

First Surveillance Audit

*Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC)
Salmon Standard V1.0*

**Tassal Operations Pty Ltd
Level 9, 1 Franklin Wharf, Hobart 7000 Australia**

USING: ASC Salmon Standard V1.0 June 2012

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Acronyms

ABARES	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
ABM	Area Based Management
ABN	Australian Business Number
ACN	Australian Company Number
ADAS	Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme
ADD	Acoustic Deterrent Device
AHD	Acoustic Harassment Device
AGD	Amoebic Gill Disease
AMA	Area Management Agreement
AMAMG	Area Management Agreement Management Group
AMBI	AZTI Marine Biotic Index
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority
ANZECC	Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council
APC	Australian Packaging Covenant
APVMA	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
ARV	Aquareovirus
ASC	Aquaculture Stewardship Council
ASI	Accreditation Services International
ASX	Australian Stock Exchange
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
AWU	Australian Workers' Union
AZE	Allowable Zone of Effect
BAP	Best Aquaculture Practices
BEMP	Broadscale Environmental Monitoring Plan
BET	Bigeye Tuna
BOD	biochemical oxygen demand
BQI	Benthic Quality Index
CAB	Conformity Assessment Body
CoC	Chain of Custody
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DA	Development application
DCIEM	Defence and Civil Institute of Environmental Medicine
DHA	Docosahexaenoic Acid
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acids
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
DOM	Dive Operations Manual
DPIPWE	Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment
eFCR	Economic Feed Conversion Ratio
EHN	Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMPCA	Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act
ENGO	Environmental Non-Government organization
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
EPN	Eicosapentaenoic acid (Omega-3 fatty acid)
EPO	Eastern Pacific Ocean
ERM	Enteric redmouth disease
EUL	Estimated Unexplained Losses
FCR	Feed Conversion Rates
FFDRo	Fish Oil Forage Fish Dependency Ratio
FFDRm	Fishmeal Forage Fish Dependency Ratio

FH	Fish Health
FHMP	Fish Health Management Plan
FHU	Fish Health Unit
FIP	Fisheries Improvement Project
FM	Fish Meal
FMP	Fisheries Management Plan
FO	Fish Oil
FRDC	Fisheries Research & Development Corporation
FY	Financial Year
GHG	Green House Gas
GJ	Gigajoule
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GWP	Global Warming Potential
HAC	Huon Aquaculture Company
HAG	Huon Aquaculture Group
HO	Head Office
HOG	Head On Gutted
HoS	Head of Sustainability
HPLC	High-performance liquid chromatography
IALA	International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities
IFFO RS	The International Fishmeal and Fish Oil Organisation - Responsible Supply
IFS	Inland Fisheries Service
IFFO RS	The International Fishmeal and Fish Oil Organisation - Responsible Supply
IHN	Infectious haematopoietic necrosis
BKD	Bacterial kidney disease
IMAS	Institute of Marine & Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania
IPN	Infectious pancreatic necrosis
ISA	Infectious salmon anaemia
ISEAL	International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labeling Alliance
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUU	Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported
JSA	Job Safety Analysis
kL	Kilolitres
kWh	Kilowatt Hour
LCA	Life Cycle Analysis/Assessment
LOI	Loss on Ignition
MDS	multidimensional scaling
MF	Marine Farm
MFDP	Marine Farm Development Plan
MFP	Marine Farm Plans
MH	Macquarie Harbour
MOP	Marine Operations Protocol
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheets
MT	Metric Ton
MWh	Megawatt Hour
NC	Non-conformity
NES	National Employment Standards
NGER	National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting
NRM	Natural Resource Management

NWB	North West Bay
OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health
OTC	Oxytetracycline
PD	Pancreatic Disease
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
QA	Quality Assurance
RCD	Residue Current Device
RLO	Rickettsia
RM	Regional Manager
ROV	Remotely Operated Vehicle
RTRS	Roundtable for Responsible Soy
SAD	Salmon Aquaculture Dialogue
SAI	Social Accountability International
SARDI	South Australian Research and Development Institute
SCAT	Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania
SHWG	Salmonid Health Working Group
SOMV	Salmon Orthomyxoviruses
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPC	Soy Protein Concentrate
SPP	Special Plumbing Permit
SRAC	Sustainability Report Advisory Committee
SROI	Social Return on Investment
TAFI	Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute
TARFISH	Tasmanian Association for Recreational Fishing
TASI	Tasmanian Aboriginal Site Index
TCT	Tasmanian Conservation Trust
TFDA	Tasmania Fisheries Development Authority
TIMS	Tassal's integrated Management System
TPDNO	Total Permitted Dissolved Nitrogen Output
TRCI	Tasmanian River Condition Index
TSGA	Tasmanian Salmonid Growers Association
TSIC	Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council
UEL	Unexplained Losses
USA	United States of America
VDA	Van Diemen Aqua
WDP	Waste Disposal Plan
WHS	Work Health and Safety
WHO	World health Organization
WIP	Wildlife Interaction Plan
WPA	Workplace Partnerships Agreement

1 Summary

The Tassal Operations Pty Ltd.'s (Tassal) salmon culturing site within the scope of this full surveillance audit, marine farm (MF) 94 The Sheppards, in North West Bay (NWB), showed excellent overall compliance to the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) salmon standard. The assessment team evaluated the operations against the ASC Salmon Standard V. 1.0 June 2012.

Overall progress against the 9 non-conformities (NCs) identified during the full assessment of the Soldiers Point site and improvements following the action plans were assessed during this first surveillance audit.

One NC was identified in Principle 1 (Comply with all applicable national laws and local regulations) related to health and safety regulations and two in Principle 2 (Conserve natural habitat, local biodiversity and ecosystem function), one related to feed testing and one about access to information by the public. There was one NC in Principle 4 (Use resources in an environmentally efficient and responsible manner) related to the feed ingredients used at the farming sites. Two NCs were found in Principle 5 (Manage disease and parasites in an environmentally responsible manner). The first related to the frequency of farm site visits by the company vet, the other to the estimated percentage of unexplained mortality to overall mortality at the farm site. Two were identified in Principle 7 (Be a good neighbor and conscientious citizen), the first one related to informing the community regarding antibiotics treatments and potential health risks and was associated with two compliance criteria, the second one was about consultations with aboriginal groups. One NC was identified in Section 8 (Requirements for suppliers of smolt) about dissolved oxygen (DO) measurements in effluent of the semi-open hatchery system at Russell Falls.

The annual surveillance audit confirmed the closing of all 9 NCs, but 3 recommendations were given. No new NCs were raised during this surveillance audit. Recommendations do not require a client action plan but they identify areas of future non-compliance.

The recommendations are:

- Tassal develops a consistent method of sampling and testing the feed across its farms.
- Mortality data, antibiotic use and estimated unexplained losses on the Dashboard should be provided for each Marine Farm, as specified by the ASC Standard, rather than each region as a whole.
- The dashboard should be updated every 30 days, even when there have been no mortalities.

2 Background of Farm and updates to Farming operations

The Tassal site assessed during this full-assessment, the MF 94 lease, is located within Zone 2A of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel Marine Farming Plan area, close to the shore, just south of North West Bay, Tasmania, Australia (Figure 1). The area of the zone is 40.8 hectares with a Maximum Leasable Area (MLA) of 20.00 hectares. Tassal is permitted to farm finfish in this zone as per provisions of its marine farming licence. The Sheppards lease has 22-24 pen bay positions for 120m circumference polar circle cages. The cages are stocked at densities of approximately 15kg/m³ maximum following internal Tassal policies.

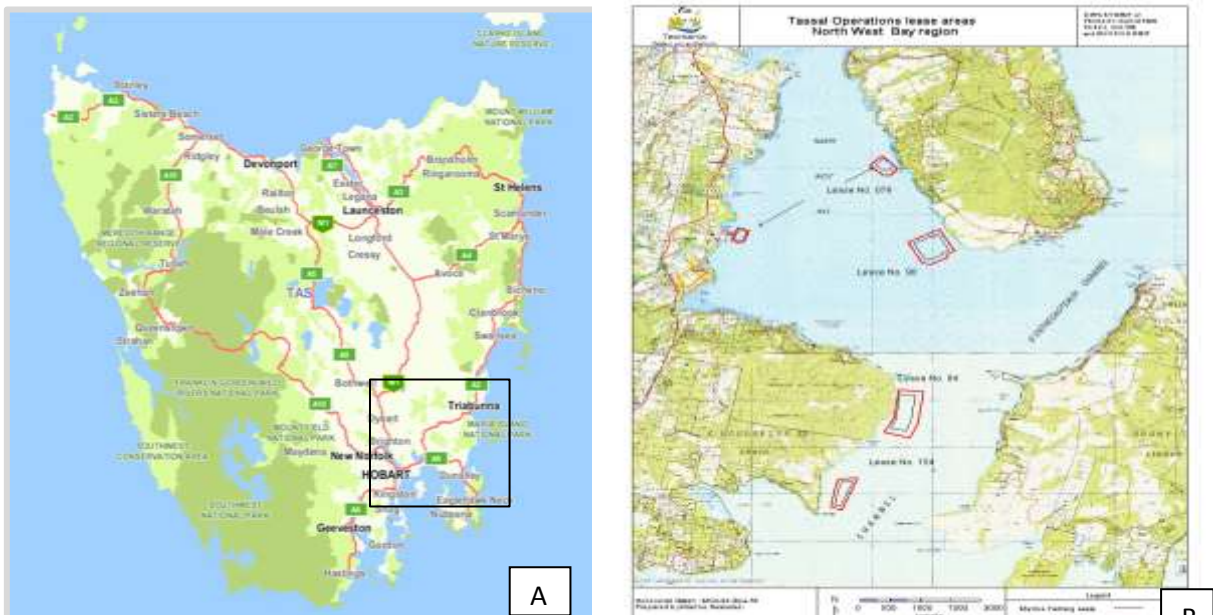


Figure 1. Map A: Area that contains the receiving body of water, North West Bay (indicated by black box), Tasmania, Australia. Map B: Close-up location of the lease site (MF 94). Other sites are not included in unit of certification and not used for grow-out.

Since the full audit for compliance to the ASC salmon standard in 2014 and the identification of 9 non-conformities, Tassal has implemented a number of new operating procedures as well as new equipment to facilitate this. These include:

- Improved and increased test and tag procedures for electrical equipment used on the farm.
- Quarterly testing of dust and small fragments in the feed.
- The Tassal website has been upgraded to include a new tab in the Sustainability section, the ASC Dashboard. This Dashboard has three sections: Wildlife Interactions, Therapeutant Use and Estimated Unexplained Loss (EUL). Tassal is using this tab to notify the public of lethal wildlife incidents within 30 days, to report any antibiotic treatments and potential health risks, and to report the EUL for each production cycle for each region.
- Tassal has including records of any lethal wildlife incidents into the software 'Fishtalk' across its farms,
- Increased interaction and more meaningful consultation with stakeholders through staff involvement in community activities and participation in regional management programs

- In cooperation with the feed supplier Skretting, Tassal is in compliance of the ASC feed criteria.
- Tassal has also complied with ASC required of quarterly veterinary visits to farm sites.
- Tassal is improving fish mortality reporting procedures and diagnosis.
- Weekly D.O. measurements have been taken at Russell Falls and Saltas hatcheries since October 2014 and August 2014, respectively.

3 Scope

Reference Standard & Guidance	ASC Salmon Standard V1.0 June 2010 Audit Manual, ASC Salmon Standard V1.0
Scheme Documents	ASC Certification and Accreditation Requirements V1.0
Species Produced	(Atlantic salmon - <i>Salmo salar</i>)
Audit Scope	Marine farm-level production at MF 94, The Sheppards single site assessment
Receiving Water Body	D'Entrecasteaux Channel, Tasmania, Australia

4 Audit Plan

4.1 Previous Audits

Tassal received ASC certification for the Sheppards farm site on June 10th 2014.

All aspects of the assessment process were carried out under the auspices of SCS Global Services (SCS), an Accreditation Services International (ASI) accredited conformity assessment body (CAB), and in direct accordance with ASC requirements.

4.2 Names of the Auditors

The following auditors comprised the assessment team: Dr. Sabine Daume, Dr. Christine Crawford, and James McNaughton.

Dr. Sabine Daume, SCS Global Services – MSC and ASC lead auditor

Dr. Daume is responsible for leading SCS's Sustainable Seafood Certification program, which includes aquaculture, fishery and chain of custody certification under the auspices of both the nascent Aquaculture Stewardship Council and the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). She has been part of the global steering committee for the Abalone Dialogue to develop the Abalone standard for ASC and sits on the Technical Advisory Group for the Aquaculture Stewardship Council. Prior to joining SCS Dr. Daume worked as a Senior Research Scientist at the Research Division of the Department of Fisheries in Western Australia and at Deakin University in Victoria, Australia.

Past research conducted by Dr. Daume has focused on invertebrate aquaculture and fisheries. She has led several nationally FRDC funded, multi-year research grants on abalone broodstock conditioning and improvements to hatchery and nursery production as well as fisheries enhancement. Dr. Daume is a certified lead auditor under the ISO 9001:2008 and SAI's training for SA 8000 (social accountability) and trained to conduct ASC audits against the salmon and abalone standards. She has led numerous pre- and full- MSC assessments of various size and scale, including many fisheries in Australia. She also has experience working with diverse stakeholder groups, often in remote marine environments. Dr Daume has published in the peer-reviewed scientific literature (e.g. *Aquaculture Research*, *Journal of Shellfish Research*) as well as produced research reports and interactive training materials for the industry and led industry workshops.

Dr. Christine Crawford - Technical Expert

Dr Christine Crawford has over thirty years' experience in shellfish and finfish aquaculture, including hatchery and intertidal shellfish production, and effects of aquaculture on the environment, both in Australia and overseas. She is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania. Previously she worked for the Tasmanian government for many years. Dr Crawford has also lead research projects investigating the ecology and health and monitoring of estuaries, including environmental flows and links between changing climatic conditions and estuarine water quality. In recent years she has conducted ecological sustainability assessments for aquaculture operations in Australia and overseas for WWF.

Dr Crawford has published widely in the international peer-reviewed literature, including 38 papers, 6 book chapters, book co-editor and over a hundred reports to industry and government. Her work has also involved consultation with a diverse range of stakeholders, often in remote locations.

James McNaughton, SCS Global Services – Fair Trade USA Auditor (remotely)

James McNaughton is an Associate at SCS Global Services, specializing in social auditing and auditor training. He is a Fair Trade USA auditor, with a focus on audit projects in Latin America and Asia-Pacific. James leads Fair Trade USA auditor trainings, both remotely and onsite in Latin America and Asia-Pacific. He also works as a social auditor within the Aquaculture Stewardship Council program, and is a certification decision maker within the Food and Agriculture Division at SCS Global Services. James' background is in the development of social responsibility standards, contributing to the Fair Trade USA agricultural standards, and the Fair Labor Practices and Community Benefits standard. James is a certified ISO 9001 lead auditor. He graduated from the University of Adelaide with a Bachelor of International Studies. James was the social auditor on the team and responsible for Principle 6 and 7 as well as stakeholder engagement.

4.3 Audit Plan as Implemented

The general steps followed were:

Onsite Audit and Meetings with the company staff (17th March, 2015)

SCS planned for and conducted meetings in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia as well as the actual lease sites and land based sites relevant to the unit of certification.

Gathering of evidence (March, 2015)

Evidence in the form of documents, reports and internal protocols and procedures were received before the audit commenced.

Drafting the report (March-April, 2015)

The assessment team drafted the report in accordance with ASC required process and layout.

Review of the report (April, 2015)

The complete draft report was submitted to the client for review. The draft report included a list of closed non-conformities and possible new ones identified during the surveillance audit. The client was requested to include a root cause analyses as well as action plan to close out any new minor non-conformities.

Release of Draft Report (April, 2015)

SCS released the report for posting on the ASC website.

4.4 Staff Interviews

The Table below summarizes the staff interviews that were conducted at Tassal head office (HO) and at the land based office for the North West Bay surveillance audit.

Table 1. Summary of Worker and Management Interviews

Table 1: Summary of Worker and Management Interviews
Environmental Certification Officer
Community Engagement Officer
Fish Health staff member
Human Resources department representative
Regional Manager
Systems Team Leader
Operation Manager
Team Leader 1

5 Findings

This first surveillance audit concentrated on the non-conformities identified during the full assessment for North West Bay MF 94, The Sheppards against ASC Salmon Standard V1.0 and these are reported below. Compliance with other criteria for ASC certification were also considered during the surveillance audit.

Criterion	Year	Category	Summary of Finding	Client Root Cause Analysis	Client Action Plan	Deadline
1.1.1.a	2014	Minor NC	The equipment on the Sheppards Barge was not always operated in line with legislative requirements for WHS and environmental protection (e.g. testing battery charger and an electric drill had just expired test & tags (Feb. '14)	Operator error: Not following documented process.	Test and tag scheduled immediately. Before the first surveillance audit in 2015, Tassal will ensure operations are in line with legislative requirements for WHS and environmental protection	To be reviewed at the first surveillance audit.

Progress against action plan:

Tassal North West Bay office has implemented test and tag as a routine part of their operations. They have allocated a muster site in their main office building to place portable equipment requiring testing and tagging. They are also checking and keeping records every six months of test and tag. Spot checks by the auditors of testing and tagging of equipment on the NW Bay Sheppards farm showed that they were within the survey period. Staff were aware of the requirement to keep equipment within test and tag survey as a safety issue relevant to their operations.

This nonconformity has been resolved and can be closed.

Status of NC: CLOSED

Criterion	Year	Category	Summary of Finding	Client Root Cause Analysis	Client Action Plan	Deadline
2.3.1.a	2014	Minor NC	Currently, the feed used at the North West Bay sites is not tested quarterly.	Feed has been tested annually by feed supplier as per contractual agreement. At the time of the audit Tassal was in the process of implementing internal quarterly testing procedures, but historical evidence was not yet available.	Equipment has been purchased and procedure developed and implemented at site. Training is scheduled for August 2014. Quarterly testing results will be available for review at 2015 surveillance audit	Corrective actions to be assessed at the first surveillance audit

Progress against action plan:

Quarterly testing of dust and fragments in feed commenced in December 2014 and was conducted again in March 2015. A mock-up of the sieving method used was shown to the auditors. Composite feed samples were collected from the sprinkler which releases the feed into the pen of fish. They were sieved through 1mm and 2.36mm sieves and the percentage of crumbles on the sieve and dust that had fallen through to the pan underneath were weighed.

Tassal NW Bay chose to take feed samples from the sprinklers as this was the final point before entry into the water. They reasoned that if the percentage of dust was too high, they could then trace back through the feed supply system to determine whether any equipment being used was affecting the feed or whether the feed supplied to the farm did not meet quality criteria.

There was some discussion on the methods used, partly because of some ambiguity in the procedures provided in the ASC Salmon Standard version 1, June 2012, Appendix 1-2. Calculation methodology for the percent fines in feed. Although the Standard provides calculations for dust only, i.e. weight of feed that passes through all sieves, the Introduction describes this method as determining 'fines' (dust and small fragments). Tassal NW Bay measured both dust and small fragments separately and combined them as fines to determine a total percentage, which was below the specified acceptable level of 1%. The approximately 500g sample taken from the sprinkler was also accepted as a pooled sample as several bags of feed had been mixed together in the feed hopper from which the sample was taken.

Because quarterly feed testing has been implemented as a routine procedure, we concluded that this nonconformity has been closed.

Status of NC: CLOSED

Recommendation:

We recommend that Tassal develops a consistent method of sampling and testing across its farms so that comparisons can be made as required. At this early stage of feed testing we noted slightly different procedures between NW Bay and Bruny regions.

Criterion	Year	Category	Summary of Finding	Client Root Cause Analysis	Client Action Plan	Deadline
2.5.5.b	2014	Minor NC	Currently, information about lethal incidents is not made publically available within 30 days.	Historically, Tassal has reported lethal incidents annually in their Sustainability Report. The commitment has been made to report any lethal incidents on website within 30 days; however, there have been no lethal incidents at this Region in the previous 12 months and therefore nothing to report	A new website will include a tab for all ASC reporting requirements. Any lethal incidents will be reported there within 30 days. This change is planned with the new website to be launched in March 2014.	To be reviewed at the first surveillance audit.

Progress against action plan:

Examination of the Tassal website showed that it has been upgraded to include a tab under Sustainability for ASC reporting requirements. This tab, the ASC Dashboard, includes a section on Wildlife Interactions which shows the six farming regions on a map of Tasmania. Clicking on a farming region brings up a list of mortalities for that region (It is recommended that it is clearly explained in the Wildlife Interactions Section that each region on the map must be clicked to obtain the detailed information on lethal incidents). The list of wildlife interactions for North West Bay documents no bird mortalities in November 2014 and one gull mortality in February 2015. There were two accidental Australian fur seal mortalities at NW Bay in late April 2014.

Because lethal incidents are now being communicated on the Tassal website within 30 days this non-compliance for not communicating lethal incidents can now be closed.

Status of NC: CLOSED

Recommendation:

We make a formal recommendation that the mortality data on the Dashboard is provided for each Marine Farm, as specified by the ASC Standard, rather than each region as a whole.
We also recommend that the dashboard is updated more regularly, even when there have been no mortalities.

Criterion	Year	Category	Summary of Finding	Client Root Cause Analysis	Client Action Plan	Deadline
4.3.2.b	2014	Minor NC	Not all ingredients of the feeds used at the Bruny Island farm site achieve individual fish source scores >6.	Feed ingredients purchased prior to ASC commitment	Working with Skretting (Feed company) to achieve full compliance to the criteria	Corrective actions to be assessed at the first surveillance audit

Progress against action plan:

Skretting uses the mass balance method for traceability of feed ingredients: at the start of each new quarter the purchased volumes of fishmeal and fish oil which meets the criteria in the ASC standard is recorded. Based on the average inclusion rate of fishmeal and fish oil in salmon diets, these purchased volumes of raw materials are transferred into 'ASC Feed Certificates'. Fishmeal and fish oil that are in surplus are put in stock with an expiry date of 18 months. Justification of 18 months is that an average production cycle of a generation of salmon is 15-18 months. The same expiry date (18 months) is valid for produced 'ASC Feed Certificates' 4.3.2 and 4.3.4 are recorded. Skretting is able to demonstrate that it will not issue or sell ASC certificates unless these are covered by buying fishmeal and fish oil that meets the criteria in the ASC standard.

Note: The Fish Source score for trimmings sources is not a requirement for the ASC Salmon Standard, however Skretting provides these scores as well.

According to invoices provided by the feed supplier, the feed used by Tassal complies with criteria 4.3.2 (source of marine raw materials) of the ASC Standard using principle 2 (mass balance). These invoices can be used in addition to the general information provided by Skretting to demonstrate this amount of feed is in compliance with the feed related criteria of the ASC Standard.

Skretting has commissioned an independent "Marine Assessment Report" by Dr. Sarah Irvine on the status and Fish Source Scores of fisheries from which fish meal and fish oil are source, including reduction fisheries and trimmings of certain species. This report was updated on 2015 and will be updated annually to report changes that occurred during the previous year.

Status of NC: CLOSED

Criterion	Year	Category	Summary of Finding	Client Root Cause Analysis	Client Action Plan	Deadline
5.1.2.a	2014	Minor NC	During the last 2 years, visits by the company vet were not conducted quarterly.	Historically, the Fish Health team (including company vet) have visited Tassal regions as required with no specific schedule in place. This process has been implemented; however, there is no historical evidence to support this.	Before the first surveillance audit in 2015, the fish health team will visit site quarterly, as per site visit planner.	Corrective actions to be assessed at the first surveillance audit

Progress against action plan:

According to farm visit records examined, company veterinarians A. Brown and or C. Huynh have visited the farms at least once quarterly since March 2014 (in fact every month except December):

A. Brown visited Sheppards 2/5/14, 2/27/14, 6/5/14, 12/17/14 and 2/20/15.

C Huynh visited Sheppards on 10/09/14, 11/5/14, 2/22/15.

Farms have also been visited by Fish Health Officer Daniel Smith every month.

Status of NC: CLOSED

Recommendation: Update Excel file to show all veterinary visits by all company vets. Currently there is a separate file for C. Huynh.

Criterion	Year	Category	Summary of Finding	Client Root Cause Analysis	Client Action Plan	Deadline
5.1.6.b	2014	Minor NC	During the last full production cycle, the unexplained mortality was greater than 40% of overall mortality at the farm site.	Based on pathology findings, there are multiple disease processes occurring at NWB so it is difficult to ascribe to a single cause. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physiological and metabolic effects of sustained high temperature 	Multifactorial approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer study in collaboration with Skretting to develop better summer diets Increase of Jelly fish and algae surveillance Industry and Government (FHU) 	To be reviewed at the first surveillance audit.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> es Jelly fish and algae Infectious agents – Rickettsia (RLO) and Aquareovirus (ARV) 	existing projects to develop vaccines for RLO and ARV	
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Progress against action plan:

In order to better report mortalities and avoid mortalities falling under the EUL categories, Tassal has implemented changes in procedures to determine mortalities faster before fish decompose as of 1/12/14, (new recording sheet for mortalities MOF-230). Changes have been made in the mortality report sheet to help determine mortality causes more promptly and accurately; new sheet has 6 categories vs 14 in the old one. New instructions have been sent to divers and Health officers and regional managers, which state: The main aim is to get those collecting mortalities to be experts at observations rather than diagnosis. If divers are aware of anything unusual in behavior, environmental conditions, unusual mortality condition, etc. that information can be written down and verbally relayed to the site Technical Officers/Management (then a disease investigation can be carried out).

The new categories are intentionally broad. For example ‘Deformed’ can encompass jaw, spine, operculum, head, etc. Further differentiation is up to site Technical officers and Management if there is need to conduct an investigation.

Status of NC: CLOSED

Criterion	Year	Category	Summary of Finding	Client Root Cause Analysis	Client Action Plan	Deadline
7.1.1.d and 7.1.3.c	2014	Minor NC	Currently there is no direct communication with the community regarding antibiotic treatments and potential health risks.	Historically, Tassal has reported antibiotic use and supplied relevant information annually in their Sustainability Report. There is also information supplied on their current website (to be updated March 2014). Although Emergency Response Plans are in place there is currently no communication with specific communities.	A series of presentations to community groups regarding Tassal operations to be scheduled for FY2014/FY2015. These presentations to include information regarding potential health risks associated with antibiotic treatments.	Corrective actions to be assessed at the first surveillance audit

Progress against action plan:

Antibiotic usage (type and quantity) is listed in the annual Sustainability Report and is now provided on the Tassal website in the ASC Dashboard under therapeutant use. No therapeutants were used in the North West Bay farming

region during the 2013 and 2014 production cycles.

Communication and interaction with the community in the North West Bay region has increased, which provides opportunities to directly discuss the significant reduction in antibiotic use in recent years. Tassal is a financial partner in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and Huon project which brings together community groups, local industries, local Councils, State Government, University researchers and consultants to discuss issues and develop better management of the region. Tassal staff participate in and contribute to numerous community activities in the region, including shoreline and jetty marine debris clean ups and annual shorebird counts. They are also involved in various festivals and community events in southeastern Tasmania, providing opportunities to discuss Tassal operations, e.g. the Wooden Boat festival. Tassal has also developed fact sheets to distribute to the community about their farming methods and environmental management.

Taking this information into account, we therefore consider that this minor non-conformity can be closed.

Status of NC: CLOSED

Criterion	Year	Category	Summary of Finding	Client Root Cause Analysis	Client Action Plan	Deadline
7.2.2.a, b	2014	Minor NC	Currently there is no consultations with aboriginal groups	While significant engagement is undertaken in the communities in which Tassal operate, no engagement strategies have been implemented to consult with aboriginal groups specifically	Before the first surveillance audit in 2015 Tassal is planning to work with Cradle Coast NRM who are prepared to assist Tassal in forming a relationship with one of the indigenous organisations (Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania. An initial framework for the relationship will be the inclusion of sites of aboriginal cultural significance in Tassal's employee induction package	Corrective actions to be assessed at the first surveillance audit

Progress against action plan:

Tassal has been in communication with members of the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania and is developing ongoing consultation around indigenous issues relevant to salmon farming.

Criteria 7.2.2. a,b is therefore considered to be closed.

Confidential information for Criteria 7.2.2 a,b. is provided in the Confidential Annex of this report.

Status of NC: CLOSED

Criterion	Year	Category	Summary of Finding	Client Root Cause Analysis	Client Action Plan	Deadline
8.33	2014	Minor NC	DO saturation is not currently measured at Russell Falls and Saltas, semi-closed hatchery systems that supplied some smolt to the farm site.	Alternate process currently being followed. Task specific equipment not yet received	Before the first annual surveillance audit, the DO saturation will be measured as per ASC requirements.	Reviewed at the first surveillance audit.

Progress against action plan:

D.O. measurements have taken and recorded (register reviewed for Saltas and Russell Falls) monthly, twice daily, at all hatcheries, since August 2014 for Saltas, and since October 2014 for Russell Falls.

Status of NC: CLOSED

6 Results and Conclusions

It is SCS’s view that Tassal Operations Pty Ltd.’s (Tassal) salmon culturing site (MF) 94 The Sheppards, North West Bay continues to meet the salmon standard of the ASC (V. 1.0) and complies with the ‘Requirements for Continued Certification.’ In this audit cycle the non-conformities raised during the full assessment audit have been closed. However several recommendations were made by the assessment team. Progress towards these will be evaluated at the 2016 surveillance audit.

7 References

DPIPWE (2002) D’Entrecasteaux Channel Marine Farming Development Plan February 2002.

Available at <http://dpiipwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/D%27Entrecasteaux -MFDP -Feb02.pdf>

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