

LIVING MARINE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT 1995
SECTION 75 – MINISTERIAL GUIDELINE

SUBJECT MARINE FARMING – ABALONE RANCHING

This guideline replaces the guideline dated 27 June 2001.

This Ministerial Guideline applies to the marine farming of abalone (*HALIOTIS sp.*) and specifically the ranching of this fish. Ranching in this context is defined as the propagation of farmed abalone stocks utilising farming practices that involve the free ranging of farmed abalone stocks over naturally occurring sea floor without constraint of artificial physical containment.

OBJECTIVES

To establish a policy on the ranching of farmed abalone (*HALIOTIS sp.*) stock in Tasmanian waters.

POLICY STATEMENT

No ranching of farmed abalone (*HALIOTIS sp.*) can be conducted in Tasmanian State waters without the authority of a marine farming licence issued pursuant to Part 4, Division 5 of the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995*.

No marine farming licence will be granted or varied pursuant to Part 4, Division 5 of the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995* to provide for the ranching of farmed abalone (*HALIOTIS sp.*) from the date of the approval of this Ministerial Guideline.

Abalone ranching is defined for the purposes of this policy as the propagation of farmed abalone (*HALIOTIS sp.*) utilising farming practices that involve the free ranging of farmed abalone (*HALIOTIS sp.*) over naturally occurring sea floor without constraint of artificial physical containment.

ADMINISTRATION OF THIS POLICY

1. No application for the granting of a marine farming licence over State waters made pursuant to s. 77 (1) of the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995* for marine farming activities that meet the definition of abalone ranching will be approved by the Minister as from the date of approval of this Ministerial Guideline.
2. No application for the variation of a marine farming licence over State waters made pursuant to s. 77 (1) of the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995* to allow for marine farming activities that meet the definition of abalone ranching will be approved by the Minister as from the date of approval of this Ministerial Guideline.

BACKGROUND

Interest in the ranching of farmed abalone on naturally occurring sea floor is anticipated to increase as the abalone marine farming industry develops. Abalone ranching in Tasmanian State waters is considered an inappropriate fish husbandry technique as wide scale use of this fish culture method presents an unacceptable compliance risk that would threaten the sustainability of the State's wild abalone fish stocks.

For this reason in order that the objectives of the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995* are met, it is considered necessary to restrict any further abalone ranching activities.

Signed. Steven Kons LLB, MHA

Date:- 24/05/2004

Minister for Primary Industries and Water