



PORT PHILLIP CONSERVATION COUNCIL INC.

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PPCC Inc. Policy Statement No. 13

Aquaculture in and near Port Phillip

SUMMARY:

Port Phillip Bay and its shores are already being utilized for commercial farming of marine produce. Currently these are primarily the water-based culture of mussels and the harvesting of selected table fish in foreshore tidal basins previously used for commercial production of salt.

DETAIL:

The use of Port Phillip for such commercial activities should only be allowed under the following strict guidelines:

1. Sites must not interfere with or be incompatible with any beneficial uses of the Bay, as defined under State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Port Phillip Bay), e.g. swimming, boating, angling or shore-based recreational activities.
2. The associated shore-based processing facilities should be in an industrial zone and must not be sited on or closely adjacent to the Bay's shoreline. Shore-based facilities must comply with all Environment Protection Authority requirements for waste storage and disposal, and emit no noxious odours.
3. An environmental management plan for all sites should be established, monitored and enforced by the relevant authorities.
4. Only indigenous marine molluscs or fish indigenous to Port Phillip should be permitted to be farmed. This should be strictly enforced.
5. The methods of nutrition should be carefully monitored and regulated. The use of potentially harmful ingredients in food supplements should be banned, and all such food regularly analysed by government. No imported products, including pelletized or frozen food, should be permitted.
6. Substantial bank guarantees should be required to be lodged by all operators to ensure that clean-up and removal of failed enterprises are not a continuing eyesore or a burden on the taxpayer. The design and location of all sites should comply with the aesthetic and visual requirements of the "State Environmental Protection Policy (Waters of Port Phillip Bay)".
7. The increase in area of existing sites and the establishment of new sites should be regulated.

ADOPTION:

This PPCC Inc. Policy Statement No. 13 was adopted by a General Meeting of the Port Phillip Conservation Council Inc. on 30th April 2001.
