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Mussel Farm modification submission

The impact of Jervis Bay Mussels farming operations has only become apparent to me through the increased fouling of our boat moored in Currumbene Creek. Our mooring is located approximately 2.5 kilometres from the Huskisson entrance and is quite close to the creek bend at Myola.

Our boat is removed from the water and properly serviced on a yearly basis.

We have seen a substantial increase in mussel infestations in our thru hull fittings, mooring lines and anodes.



Mussels on hull anode

Other boats owners have also complained of mussel growth on their hulls and propellers, although we are yet to experience that.

The blocking of hull fittings such as engine cooling water, cockpit drains, bilge pump outlets and the like pose a substantial risk to our vessels ability to operate safely. Coverage of hull anodes reduces their effectiveness as part of the electrical bonding system and could lead to structural metal corrosion and failure which could also impact safety.

There have also been reliable sightings of mussels on beaches and rocks around the bay which are a new phenomenon.

I have been told that the mussel farm uses the species *Mytilus Galloprovincialis* which is a European species.

I am no expert on this subject but it doesn't take a lot of searching to find this species is referred to as "one of the world's most notorious invasive species" by the University of Queensland which goes on to identify it as one of the "100 world's worst invasive species" as assigned on the IUCN Invasive species data base.(International Union for Conservation of Nature)

The IUCN also notes its general impact is to become the dominant species through the displacement of indigenous species. There is no reference of its affect on the marine environment as a whole, but there would have to be significant changes in the ecosystem.

While the UQ study is equivocal on this variety's impact in Australia, its inability to reach a conclusion, its emphasis on ongoing research and the species perceived invasiveness, suggest that approval for its production, particularly in a Marine Park Habitat Protection Zone, is inappropriate at the very least.

While the mussel infestations on boats inside the creek may seem like a side issue, it may well be indicative of a potentially much larger and growing problem in the JBMP and nearby waterways.

I have seen no indication that this is acknowledged or being investigated by either Jervis Bay Mussels or the DPI.

As such I oppose the application to modify or expand the leased farming areas until further investigation of the long term affects of this venture have been properly assessed.

The potential damage to the environment, and to local tourism if you wish to monetise its impact, could outweigh short term economic benefits.

Regards,

Greg Cavill.

Articles referred to above.

University of Queensland link

<https://www.uq.edu.au/news/article/2019/11/australia%E2%80%99s-got-mussels-it-could-be-problem>

Global Invasive Species Database link

<http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/speciesname/Mytilus+galloprovincialis>