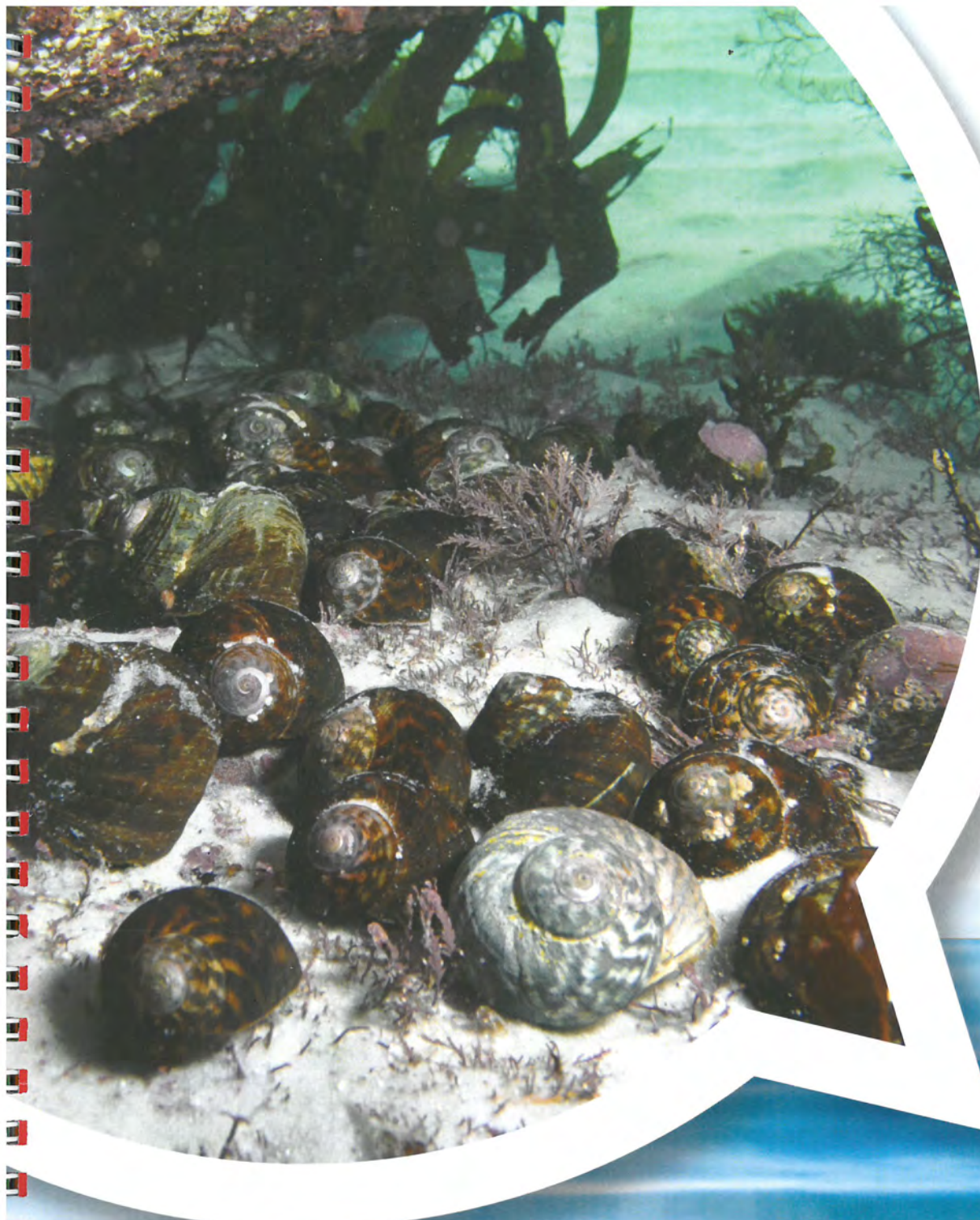




YOUR MARINE
VALUES
PUBLIC REPORT 2013





**YOUR MARINE
VALUES**



TASMANIAN ABORIGINAL VALUES

01

**TASMANIAN
ABORIGINAL
COMMUNITY**

IMAS
INSTITUTE FOR MARINE AND
ANTARCTIC STUDIES





putalina/
Oyster Cove:
the return of land
to its Aboriginal
owners is vital to
the health of the
people and the
land



TASMANIAN ABORIGINAL VALUES

01 TASMANIAN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

As the key representative body for the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre has identified the following ecological, economic and social values for the marine environment of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and lower Huon Estuary in South East Tasmania.

The South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation (SETAC) has a Land and Sea Country Plan 2012-2017, which documents SETAC's values and concerns for Aboriginal country in South East Tasmania.

Aboriginal Values

- Location of arrival of early invaders and site of multiple fatalities in the war against our people
- Continued use for subsistence and cultural pursuits
- Final resting place for many of our people
- Persistence of the natural bounty of the seas and waterways
- The sea country of many of our close relatives both born on and brought in captivity to this area
- Location of some of the few unspoilt natural ecosystems easily accessible from urban areas
- Historical connection with use of the Channel as a major means of transport and communication with other southern regions
- Unimpeded access to our traditional lands and waterways
- Original and continuing ownership, possession and stewardship/

Aspirations

- Recognition and honouring of our uses of the marine environment for millennia
- Tasmanian laws that would guarantee our rights to decision making in location of fish farms and aquaculture generally
- Mitigation of the effects of human-induced climate change and marine developments on our significant coastal areas
- Protection of our shorelines from vehicle and recreational boating damage
- Protection of our native species from exotic and invasive species of all types.

Summary values

Ecological and cultural

Aboriginal people value ecosystem health as a foundation for a range of important associated values. Aboriginal cultural belief is that the Land and Sea possess spirit and stories, and that the land and its many living creatures can convey these spirits and stories, often as living messengers or markers in the landscape. For these values to survive, respect must be given to protection and maintenance of the natural and ecological systems that maintain these values.

The cultural practice of harvesting shellfish such as limpets, warriners and abalone and the harvesting of the yula (muttonbird) and fish or lobster rely on a functioning healthy marine ecology. The Aboriginal community's health and wellbeing relies on our ability to continue these practices and the health of the resource is valued highly.

Social and economic

Aboriginal people as a community have been largely alienated from the economic benefits of the aquaculture industry. After dispossession of traditional land and sea rights the Aboriginal community's aspirations to rebuild an economic base has been an ongoing struggle. Aboriginal people value their right to use and profit sustainably from their traditional economic resources. Maintaining the potential for the development of Aboriginal community projects that incorporate Aboriginal cultural and social values within the marine environment is important to Aboriginals.

The coastal margin

The coastal strip and hinterland has always been an important landscape for Aboriginal people. The important marine resource base, including living and non-living resources such as stone and minerals, mean that this area now contains a rich and irreplaceable tangible history which is present visibly in the landscape or is buried in the earth. The coastal margin is a fragile and valuable heritage area, holding an ancient record of Aboriginal life. Aquaculture land-based facilities need to consider this importance and protect these values.

How is it managed?

Administration and legislation

The *Aboriginal Relics Act 1975* protects Aboriginal "relics" defined to include middens, artefacts, engravings and places that bear signs of the activities of the original inhabitants. It is an offense to destroy, damage, conceal, remove, or interfere with an Aboriginal relic. Permits to interfere with Aboriginal heritage are processed by Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania (AHT), a division of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment. AHT also keeps a register of known sites although most sites are not recorded on the Site Index. A ministerially appointed committee of Aboriginals advises the Minister on the granting of permits for development applications.

The *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995* acknowledges the Aboriginal community's cultural right to the wild harvest of marine species, whilst excluding activity of a commercial nature.

We are currently seeking to have Aboriginal community representation and management embedded in new Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage Protection legislation.

Aboriginal community management

The Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania is the statutory body which holds title to returned lands on behalf of the Aboriginal community. Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Inc. is a state-wide Aboriginal community controlled organisation which performs, amongst other things, cultural heritage protection functions. Other groups provide heritage advisory and educational services for more limited purposes.

Aboriginal people maintain inherent ownership of Aboriginal heritage. Therefore the Aboriginal community must remain central in managing Aboriginal heritage. It is acknowledged through Commonwealth and international guidelines that Aboriginal people are the primary source of information on matters relating to Aboriginal culture and heritage, including interpreting Aboriginal values, and that Aboriginal people have a right to be represented and participate in decision making processes. Matters that potentially impact upon the heritage or culture of Aboriginal people should be referred to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre as the representative of the Aboriginal community.

Useful Information

Australian Heritage Council (2002) *Ask First – A guide to respecting Indigenous heritage places and values*

United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, to which Australia is a signatory

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (2011) *Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies 2011*

– *Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, January 2014*