

19 December 2014

MEDIA RELEASE

Senate committee endorses the NT's seafood labelling

The Northern Territory Seafood Council celebrates a Senate committee recommendation to mirror the Territory's seafood labelling laws throughout Australia.

"A simple recommendation has been made by the Senate committee and that is to remove the current exemption that leaves consumers in the dark about what country the seafood is from when they are dining out," said Northern Territory Seafood Council Chairman, Mr Rob Fish.

"The Senate committee has listened to the consumers, to industry and to the dining sector in the Northern Territory and as a result have made a strong recommendation that all venues throughout the country must state the Country of Origin of seafood." Mr Fish said.

"In 2008, the Northern Territory introduced seafood labelling to the dining sector, a first for Australia." Mr Fish stated.

"To have this labelling rolled out across the country will be the most important step for the seafood industry in Australia in over 20 years.

It allows the right choices to be made about sustainability, allows the Australian industry to compete and grow and most importantly it allows the consumer to have confidence in buying their seafood," stated Mr Fish.

"The Senate committee have seen through the unfounded campaigns against labelling in favor of the consumer," Mr Fish went on to say.

"All Territorians should be proud of leading the way in labelling of seafood and their support has ensured all Australians will be better informed about their seafood.

Acting on the recommendations of this report will ensure every Australian can be confident in the origin of their seafood," said Mr Fish.

The report recommends that the exemption regarding country of origin labelling under Standard 1.2.11 of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code for cooked or pre-prepared seafood sold by the food services sector be removed, subject to a transition period of no more than 12 months.

For further information contact:

Rob Fish **0439 810 304**
Donna English **08 8981 5194**