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Country of origin labelling (CoOL) for seafood has just become a state of origin issue with the blues of NSW taking the lead in strengthening the supply of Australian seafood by recognising that it should be identified on menus as such.

The Australian seafood industry and in particular the Australian farmed prawn and barramundi industry welcome the move last week by the NSW Deputy Premier, Troy Grant and our two groups throw out a challenge for other states to start joining in.

Matt West, President of the Australian Prawn Farmers stated "At this particular time of year I can't believe that NSW has achieved something over Queensland! As the majority of Prawn and Barra producers are proud Queenslanders, surely the Queensland Ministers can step to the mark on this issue."

Our seafood deserves to be recognised on menus, it is currently labelled correctly throughout all Australian supermarkets and once labelled correctly on restaurant menus will give consumers an informed choice about what seafood dishes they buy.

By not providing this information on menus now, how can any parochial Queenslander be sure they know if they are eating Australian seafood?

Marty Phillips, President of the Australian Barramundi Farmers Association said "It's time to stop hiding our identity and allow consumers the chance to choose local and help support local industries. We may be on top of the world when it comes to State of Origin but we fail when it come to Country of Origin — we challenge the Qld Government to follow the lead of NSW and bring in regulations that allow consumers to make informed choices when dining on seafood".

So come on Maroons, let's not let the Blues get the better of Queenslanders.

Media Queries:

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