



# NATIONAL SEAFOOD INDUSTRY ALLIANCE

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30 August 2013

## MEDIA RELEASE

### SUSPENSION WELCOMED BY PROFESSIONAL FISHERMEN

THE National Seafood Industry Alliance which represents the Australian seafood industry has welcomed the Coalition's commitment to review the new Commonwealth marine parks.

National Seafood Industry Alliance (NSIA) Chair, Mr Grahame Turk, said today that the marine parks declared by the Labor Government would ban one or more types of fishing in more than two million square kilometres of ocean round Australia from 1 July 2014.

"Seafood producers throughout Australia will welcome the Coalition's commitment to immediately suspend the Management Plans for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), to appoint an expert scientific panel to review the science supporting the boundary area for each of the proposed MPAs, and to review the proposed boundaries in consultation with stakeholders.

"We believe the current management plans are unacceptable. The process that produced these plans was rushed and consultation has been very poor. The seafood industry would be badly damaged, along with dependent communities and businesses around Australia, by the proposed MPAs.

"The NSIA has been fighting for a fair go for all Australians impacted by marine reserves. People who would be negatively affected include not only commercial fishers but also businesses reliant on the seafood industry, recreational fishers, charter boat operators and local communities.

"The NSIA is pleased to see the Coalition promising to base future marine park planning on peer-reviewed scientific evidence, and comprehensive social and economic impact assessment, and to consult closely with stakeholders, including the commercial fishing sector.

"We also welcome the Coalition's acknowledgement that world-leading and highly-rigorous fisheries management regimes are already in place in Australian waters and that significant weight will be given to these existing and effective management plans when considering MPAs.

"This is a very important policy undertaking and if the Coalition is elected to government on September 7, will significantly boost confidence amongst seafood producers and related businesses and their families."

**Contact: Grahame Turk 02 9004 1103**

### MEMBERS OF NATIONAL SEAFOOD INDUSTRY ALLIANCE

