



# NATIONAL SEAFOOD INDUSTRY ALLIANCE INCORPORATED

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## COMMUNIQUE

February 2016

The National Seafood Industry Alliance Incorporated (NSIA) held a Committee Meeting on 26 February 2016 via teleconference. This communique has been compiled to provide an overview of key NSIA issues discussed.

The first milestone report has been lodged for the *Developing a National Peak Body* project and all NSIA members were encouraged to actively promote the availability of the “Progress and Next Steps” report which is now available online via the project’s website ([unitedseafoodindustries.com.au](http://unitedseafoodindustries.com.au)). Almost all of the downloads of the report are coming from direct links from industry association websites or emails, which has added to the growing list of industry members signed up to the website to receive the report directly. Commercial business leaders from across wild catch, aquaculture and post-harvest sectors from around Australia have been invited to participate in an Industry Forum to be held in Adelaide at the end of March. The key reason for the forum is to get the input of commercial business leaders from across the seafood industry on key strategic issues identified in the “Progress and Next Steps” project report.

We have endorsed the NSIA 2016 Election Policy Priorities document which will shortly be sent to all major Federal parties seeking a written response of their support for the positions. Like previous election years, all responses will be collated and provided to industry prior to the election so that an informed decision can be made with regards to policy positions on the seafood industry.

NSIA also endorsed its second policy position paper. The paper is on Resource Sharing and sets out the need and rationale behind the policy position. Security of resource access to both areas and species is of fundamental importance to the continuing success and further development of Australia’s seafood industry. Stakeholder conflict is greatly limiting the optimal management of our fisheries and an agreed resource-sharing framework is required as a priority.

It was noted that a the Joint Select Committee on Northern Australia has recommended that the Australian Government, through COAG, remove the exemption from country of original labelling requirements under Standard 1.2.11 of the Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code for cooked or pre-prepared seafood sold by the food services industry. Seafood labelling laws is the other policy area for which a NSIA position paper exists. Noting this is this second Senate Inquiry to recommend the removal of the exemption, it was agreed that NSIA needs to actively engage with the food service sector to better understand how best this change could be implemented.

### MEMBERS OF NATIONAL SEAFOOD INDUSTRY ALLIANCE



The recommendation aligns with the NSIA policy position which is seeking the mandatory labelling of seafood to ensure the consumer is able to make informed choices about their seafood and is not misled by the absence of effective labelling.

NSIA agreed that it would be beneficial for it to compile a submission to the current Productivity Commission review on Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture and noted the need to request an extension to ensure all NSIA member issues can be reviewed to identify the common/overarching ground. Currently submissions are due at the end of March 2016.

The next meeting will occur in April 2016.

Katherine Winchester  
Chair  
February 2016