

# Queensland Seafood Industry Association

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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Wednesday 3 February 2010

### FOCUS ON FISHING AND SEAFOOD IN TOWNSVILLE

THERE will be a focus on fishing and seafood in Townsville over the next two days (Thursday and Friday, February 4 - 5), with local professional fishers and industry leaders gathering here for a number of events.

Tomorrow (Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2010) about 30 fishers, retailers and wholesalers from as far as Bowen and Innisfail will attend workshop sessions covering topics ranging from seafood marketing to calculating carbon emissions.

On Friday (5<sup>th</sup> February), the Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA) Board of Directors will meet in Townsville. (This will include an open session with local QSIA members.)

Workshop organiser Elaine Lewthwaite from the QSIA said it had been requested by regional industry participants to cover topical issues.

“Cliche’ or not, it’s true to say that fishers and everyone else in the seafood supply chain from the water right up to the retail counter or restaurant table are set on a course of constant improvement,” Ms Lewthwaite said.

“For example, fishers want to catch seafood more efficiently and with even less impact on the planet, so asked for information about calculating carbon emissions.

“They want to sell more of their catch into top-end markets like restaurants, where the quality, flavour and freshness of local Queensland seafood can be fully appreciated and rewarded, so David Pugh, the State Government’s official Queensland chef for 2009-10, is here to tell them what the restaurant trade wants and needs.

“The workshop sessions have been funded by the Department of Employment, Economic Development & Innovation and organised by the QSIA but the agenda has very much been set by the participants themselves.”

QSIA President Michael Gardner said Directors were looking forward to meeting in Townsville and talking face-to-face with local members.

“Townsville is a major port for the seafood industry and plays a significant role in providing the hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of jobs that flow directly from the Queensland seafood industry every year,” Mr Gardner said.

“As well as being a fishing port, it is also a growing seafood market in its own right, and an important processing and distribution centre. What happens in Townsville has an important bearing on the seafood industry Statewide.

“Townsville is also home to research institutions that our industry works with closely, such as the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, James Cook University and the Australian Institute of Marine Science. The city is a real research hub for the entire Queensland seafood industry.

“Townsville is somewhere that individual QSIA Directors and staff visit regularly but it is not often that the Board is able to meet here, so we are all looking forward to it.”

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Mr Michael Gardner  
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Note: Elaine will be in Townsville from Wednesday afternoon and Michael from Thursday afternoon. Photo opportunities will be available.