

Queensland Seafood Industry Association

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MEDIA RELEASE

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SEAFOOD INDUSTRY WELCOMES CORAL SEA ANNOUNCEMENT

“Coral Sea issues can now be examined rationally,” says Queensland Seafood Industry Association

THE Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA) has welcomed today's establishment of a Coral Sea Conservation Zone by Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett.

QSIA Chief Executive Officer Winston Harris said this appeared to be a “holding action” that would allow issues surrounding long-term protection of the environment of the Coral Sea to be discussed rationally, with proper input from all stakeholders.

“The Queensland seafood industry will certainly welcome the Federal Government's refusal to be rushed into any rash decisions by the current lobbying campaign by US-based environmentalists to shut the entire region to all forms of fishing,” Mr Harris said.

“We see this decision as a ‘holding action’ so that all stakeholders can be properly consulted about future protection and management of the region.”

Mr Harris said the Coral Sea Conservation Park was part of a broader planning process for the East Marine Region, which stretched from the Torres Strait to southern New South Wales and as far east as Norfolk Island. It was expected to be completed by the end of next year.

“The QSIA looks forward to playing an active role in helping the Australian Government protect the marine environment in this region, while at the same time providing for sustainable harvesting of seafood,” Mr Harris said.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Mr Winston Harris on (07) 3262 6855 / 0418 448 616