



23 June 2023

RE: Submission to consultation regarding measures to prevent the importation of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) seafood

The Fair Catch Alliance is a diverse group of seafood industry, conservation and human rights organisations. We are campaigning for the introduction of strong seafood import controls, with significant improvements to traceability and transparency, that can help close the door to seafood produced using illegal, unsustainable and exploitative practises.

The Fair Catch Alliance congratulates the Australian Government for moving forward with policy design for improved seafood import control measures.

To be considered a success, Fair Catch believes that the final suite of measures to address imported IUU must be ambitious. The new policy must:

- Include some immediate steps. For example, increased compulsory information collected at the border. This is because the issue is urgent and there is a need to send a signal to international markets that minimum standards will be increasing for seafood products exported to Australia.
- Put seafood products and supply chain transparency and traceability at the centre of its aims and mechanisms.
- Include a clear, transparent, and robust verification measure for domestic authorities to strengthen and protect the integrity of the new import controls.
- Provide high-quality communications to exporters including fisheries, businesses and markets to explain the reform process in Australia. It should include practical information to support fisheries and supply chains to improve practises.
- Take a phased approach via a legislated timeline, to minimise any potential administrative burden for supply chains. It should ensure exporting markets have a timeframe and guidelines to improve the supply of verified information, applying ethical and sustainability practises where necessary.
- Take a view of IUU to include seafood products that would not be acceptable to Australian consumers with regards to environmental sustainability and the ethical treatment of workers, and to ensure that the reforms create a level playing field for the domestic Australian seafood industry.

The Fair Catch Alliance is growing. The group now has 18 organisational supporters and a wide network of stakeholders for consultation and collaboration. Australian consumers, fisheries and civil society groups agree that Australia must have robust seafood import controls in order to create a level playing field for industry, increasing protection of the oceans and human rights. Australians should have the confidence of the same rules being applied for all seafood. All seafood must have to meet minimum sustainability and ethical standards, even if it is imported.

Fair Catch and its supporters will continue to engage in the consultation. Many of our supporters are delivering individual submissions to this first stage and we will continue to deliver both individual and joint subsequent submissions at the appropriate times.

We look forward to working with the department, executive government and all parties in the Australian Parliament to continue to make the case for ambitious reform and realise benefits for Australian industry, conservation and positive human rights outcomes.

Yours sincerely,

Fair Catch Alliance supporters



Read the Fair Catch Alliance open letter at www.faircatchalliance.org.au