

MEDIA RELEASE
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Queensland Seafood Industry Response to White Spot Disease

White spot disease (WSD) is a growing concern for commercial fishers across Queensland. The Agriculture and Fisheries Minister, Hon Bill Byrne, indicated that the detection of WSD near the Redcliffe Peninsular and Deception Bay suggests the disease is more widespread than previously thought.

“The biosecurity response is significant and commercial fishers will continue to work with the State Government to eradicate WSD from the region” said the Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA) President Keith Harris.

There are three key issues that Queenslanders and Australians seafood consumers need to know – (1) ongoing eradication is a critical process, (2) there is no human health or food safety threat and (3) buying local seafood will help sustain an industry that provides local seafood to its local community.

“Eradication of WSD needs to be the continuing focus of Biosecurity Queensland’s response. WSD does not pose a threat to human health or food safety with the region providing a range of fresh local seafood offerings. I ask locals in the Moreton Bay region to buy local seafood and support your local commercial fishers.”

The outbreak of WSD in the region is an unprecedented event. The introduction of the new movement control order has magnified the impacts on commercial fishers restricting access to Queensland and interstate markets.

“There are commercial fishers in the Logan River that have been under financial stress since December 2016. This number has grown with the expansion of the movement control order putting at risk jobs and the supply of local seafood. QSIA is ready to work with the Minister, State and Federal government to find ways to help industry now, the situation is that critical” said Mr Harris.

ENDS

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