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OCEANWATCH OBTAINS CRUCIAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ASSIST THE AUSTRALIAN SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

Sydney Fish Market (SFM) would like to congratulate the Hon. Tony Burke MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for assisting OceanWatch Australia in securing \$2.6million of much needed funding for its SeaNet program.

This funding will benefit not only OceanWatch Australia, but the entire seafood industry and seafood consumers in ensuring that the supply of sustainable seafood is maintained into the future.

"The Minister Burke's announcement today illustrates how necessary the work undertaken by OceanWatch is" said Grahame Turk, Managing Director, Sydney Fish Market.

SFM has proudly supported OceanWatch Australia since its inception in 1989 and are very pleased to see that Australian Government has recognised the importance of its extension program in facilitating industry best practice.

"The long term security of funding provided by the Australian Government will enable OceanWatch Australia's SeaNet program to continue to assist industry to develop and implement cost effective and practical solutions that are good for fishing and good for the environment." said Turk,

"The Australian Government's support for SeaNet program is another demonstration of the successful partnership between industry and the Government in ensuring the sustainability of the Australian seafood industry."

SeaNet is an initiative of OceanWatch Australia and was established in 1999. It focuses on providing an environmental extension service to the Australian seafood industry, through a unique network of fisheries conservation experts known as SeaNet officers. The program offers information and advice on how to improve fishing gear, techniques, technology and also provides practical assistance to preserve Australia's sustainable seafood industry.

SeaNet officers identify issues which directly relate to commercial and recreational fishing, and help to develop solutions which will benefit and strengthen the future of the industry. This is done by working with members of the Australian seafood industry, Government bodies, natural resource managers, researchers, businesses and local communities.

SeaNet is managed by OceanWatch Australia, a non-for-profit environmental organisation established by the commercial seafood industry. It aims to maintain the sustainability of Australia's seafood industry by protecting and enhancing fish habitats, improving water quality and advancing the sustainability of fisheries through action based partnerships.

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