



MEDIA RELEASE
25 July 2019

SEAFOOD INDUSTRY TOP PLAYERS RECOGNISED AT THE SYDNEY FISH MARKET SEAFOOD EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The seafood industry's best have been recognised for their contributions at the biennial Sydney Fish Market Seafood Excellence Awards held this evening.

The premier seafood event showcases the seafood industry, its value to the Australian economy, professionalism and commitment to supplying the finest seafood to local, national and international markets.

To celebrate these achievements, 180 guests gathered at the Australian National Maritime Museum with the Hon. Adam Marshall, Minister for Agriculture and Minister Western NSW, who presented the awards, joined by celebrity chef Adam Liaw, acting as MC for the event.

Sydney Fish Market Chairman, Grahame Turk AM, said Sydney Fish Market is proud to recognise the outstanding performance of all award recipients.

"The evening is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the tremendous and tireless efforts of the people who work behind the scenes in varying capacities to provide the Australian public with the best seafood in the world," Mr Turk says.

Seventeen businesses and individuals were awarded for their various achievements across 14 categories including Best Fish and Chips, Best Supplier and Star of the Sea.

Sea Urchin Harvest was awarded the Excellence in Environmental Practice in recognition of their passionate stand for marine life and the company's holistic view of sustainability, their employees and the environment.

Coffs Harbour Fishermen's Co-op took out two awards – Best Supplier NSW for maintaining an exceptional quality standard for their seafood whilst handling high volumes, and the Seafood Business Award in recognition of their business growth, innovation and excellence in contributing to the future of the NSW seafood industry.

Pelican Rocks Seafood Restaurant and Café was awarded the honour of Best Fish and Chips in both the People's Choice and Best Judged Fish and Chips divisions. Other recipients honoured in the 'best of' categories included Pittwater Seafood for Best Seafood Retailer, fine dining seafood restaurant Fins for Best Seafood Restaurant and Clean Seas Seafood Limited for Best Supplier (Interstate or Overseas).

For improvements within the industry in relation to the people who work within it, the Professional Fishermen's Association was recognised for being at the forefront on safety promotion within the fishing industry by raising awareness of safety issues and providing support to fishers in ensuring compliance with safety requirements.

In a similar vein, OceanWatch Australia was recognised for its innovative people development initiatives including the Master Fishermen Program which serves to improve and recognise the knowledge, skills, experience and professionalism of participating fishermen.



In acknowledgement of their contribution in improving the public profile of seafood and the seafood industry, Commercial Fishermen's Co-Operative Ltd received the Promotion Award for initiating the 'Love Seafood, Love Port Stephens' event.

It was not only businesses that were applauded for their achievements, with key individuals taking out top honours for their contributions to the seafood industry.

General Manager of Sydney Fish Market Bryan Skepper was awarded the most prestigious accolade of the evening, Star of the Sea. The Award, which signifies significant contribution to the NSW seafood industry, recognised Skepper's commitment to sustainability and his long list of achievements during his 44-year tenure at Sydney Fish Market.

Distribution Manager at Coffs Harbour Fishermen's Co-op, Joshua Cook, was given the Young Achiever Award, an achievement for those aged under 35 making a positive impact to the industry with the potential to grow into a key industry leader.

For her research efforts, Kate Barclay from the University of Technology Sydney took home the Research, Development and Extension Award for her research aimed at evaluating the wide-ranging social and economic contributions that the commercial wild-catch fishing industry makes to NSW coastal communities.

The winners and highly commended recipients of *Sydney Fish Market Seafood Excellence Awards* are:

CATEGORY	WINNER	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Excellence in Environmental Practice	Sea Urchin Harvest	
Best Supplier NSW	Coffs Harbour Fishermen's Co-op	Great Lakes Fisheries
Best Supplier (Interstate or Overseas)	Clean Seas Seafood Limited	
Best Seafood Retailer	Pittwater Seafood	
Seafood Business Award	Coffs Harbour Fishermen's Co-op	
Safety Award	Professional Fishermen's Association	Sydney Fish Market
People Development Award	OceanWatch Australia's Master Fishermen Program	
Young Achiever Award	Joshua Cook, Coffs Harbour Fishermen's Co-op	Alex Tucker, Little River
Promotion Award	Commercial Fishermen's Co-Operative Ltd	Professional Fishermen's Association
Research Development and Extension Award	Kate Barclay, University of Technology Sydney	Matt Taylor, NSW Department of Primary Industries
Best Seafood Retailer at Sydney Fish Market	Claudio's Quality Seafood	
Best Seafood Restaurant	Fins Seafood Restaurant Pty Ltd	
Best Fish and Chips Award	People's Choice: Pelican Rocks Restaurant and Cafe Best Judged: Pelican Rocks Restaurant and Cafe	



For more information on the 2019 Seafood Excellence Awards, please visit:
<https://seafoodexcellenceawards.com.au/>

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