

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

19 December 2022

Re: Inquiry into food security in Australia

Dear Committee Secretary,

Sydney Fish Market (SFM) is an institution in the NSW and wider Australian fishing industries, providing a secure and reliable marketplace for Australian seafood since 1966.

SFM was first operated as a wholesale fish market by the Fish Marketing Authority, a state-run body. 1994 saw

privatised the marketing of seafood, and Sydney Fish Market Pty Ltd was formed. Since 1994, SFM has been owned equally by the harvest and post-harvest sectors of the NSW seafood industry - the Catchers Trust of NSW and SFM Tenants and Merchants Pty Ltd.

SFM operates a wholesale auction and working fish market, hosting six seafood retailers offering oduce retailers, restaurants

and cafes. It is the largest market of its kind in the southern hemisphere, trading over 100 different species of seafood each day. In the 2022 financial year, SFM sold around 500 species of seafood with a total value of over \$152m.



From a consumer perspective, the current economic and social dimate suggests that buying Australian-made produce is now even more of a priority, as Australian consumers seek to support local industries and have confidence in the quality, safety, and environmental impact of their purchase.

However, the local wild-caught fishing industry is in decline. The number of commercial fishers in NSW dropped from a high of 3,500 in the 1980s to approximately 700 today. Much of the decline can be attributed to rising costs, industry reform, marine park expansion and an ageing workforce.

In addition to supporting the wild-caught industry to improve food security, it is also important that government simultaneously nurtures the growing aquaculture industry. Aquaculture is a profoundly important source of food security in Australia. Expansion, development, and innovation in this space in turn supports the wild-catch seafood sector by augmenting supply and strengthening the long-culture is a key industry when

it comes to supporting local employment within regional communities around Australia.

As a member of Seafood Industry Australia, we have provided input and review of their submission to the Inquiry and endorse their ten recommendations as follows:

- Acknowledge the importance of secure access to fresh Australian seafood as a critical source of nutrition for Australian families, ensuring the recommended consumption of two serves or more per week is achieved.
- 2. Development a cohes