BELOVED BLESSING OF THE FLEET CELEBRATION RETURNS TO SYDNEY FISH MARKET

- Sydney Fish Market is celebrating the much loved Blessing of the Fleet at the inaugural Taste of Seafood Festival Sydney, a free, family event on Sunday 25 September
- The celebration will include a special ceremony, followed by live entertainment, market stalls and seafood tastings

Media Release 29 August 2022, Sydney Sydney Fish Market is delighted to announce the return of its much loved Blessing of the Fleet celebration, which will take place on Sunday, 25 September 2022. The highly anticipated return of this tradition, last held pre-COVID in 2019, will kick off the inaugural Taste of Seafood Festival. From 9:30am, Sydneysiders can experience one of the oldest traditions of the global fishing community, accompanied by some of finest seafood delights.

The Blessing of the Fleet ceremony originates from the Mediterranean, involving a priest blessing the local fishing fleet to ensure safe travels and a prosperous year ahead. The festival holds strong cultural ties to the Italian and Australian fishing communities, and begins with a colourful procession of the Madonna a replica statue of the Santa Maria Di Porto Salvo accompanied by a marching band. The statue represents the guardian of Safe Ports and Harbours.

Paul Bagnato, a local fisherman whose family hails from Calabria, Italy, has been involved in every Blessing of the Fleet event at Sydney Fish Market.

The Blessing of the Fleet

generations. As we spend lots of time out at sea, the ocean is very much our home, and we enjoy all it provides for us and for the community. We look forward to seeing people from all backgrounds

Sydney Fish Market CEO, Greg Dyer, says he is delighted to see the event return as a way to honour the vibrant community of fishers that supply the Market.

Blessing of the Fleet returns in collaboration with the Taste of Seafood Festival. The event pays homage to the rich heritage of the global fishing community and celebrates the network of hardworking fishing fleets around Australia. The event will provide the perfect day out for families and a chance to experience an array of fresh,

The Taste of Seafood Festivals are run by the Professional Fishers Association with funding from the NSW Government via the Eat More NSW Seafood Grants Program. Festivals will take place in Sydney, Dubbo, Ballina, Bermagui, Hawkesbury, Wallis Lake, Newcastle and Coffs Harbour. With the objective of championing the NSW industry and supporting sustainable fishing practices, the

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