



MEDIA STATEMENT

3 August 2017 (Embargoed until 7.30pm)

Ocean and Paddock serves WA's best Fish & Chips

The high-quality fish and chips of Ocean and Paddock in Albany was last night recognised when they won both the People's Choice Fish and Chips Award as well as the (judged) Fish and Chips Award at the 2017 Western Australian Seafood Industry Awards.

The Awards event, recognising excellence in the WA seafood industry, was held at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle and opened by Minister for Fisheries, the Hon. Dave Kelly MLA in front of an audience of 350 industry participants and representatives of various stakeholder groups.

WA Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) Chairman, Mr Clayton Nelson said Ocean and Paddock had demonstrated excellence in consistently providing customers with quality seafood, with a focus on taste, quality, choice, information and labelling, ensuring customers can simply enjoy great quality seafood.

In a search for Western Australia's best Fish and Chip shop, the Australian Government's Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) in partnership with the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) and other state industry bodies coordinated an on-line public voting forum across the nation.

"Western Australian voters put forward 187 of their favourite fish and chip shops across our vast state, which represented a huge 20% of the Australian shops entered into the competition.

"Of the total 85,635 votes cast across the nation, 6,343 of those votes were for our beloved Western Australian shops.

Given the broad range of choices, the best fish and chips was no doubt difficult for the public to determine, but it gave good reason of members of the public to test out the many varieties of sustainable, Commonwealth managed seafood options on offer and provide support for a great Australian industry," Mr Nelson said.

The National winner of the 2017 Australian Fish and Chips Awards will be announced on 28 September 2017 at the National Seafood Industry Awards in Sydney.

"With vision, commitment and an abundance of passion, Ocean and Paddock has grown into a modern and popular outlet selling high quality Western Australian seafood," Mr Nelson concluded.

For further information regarding the awards, please contact:

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Owner
Ocean and Paddock

About the People's Choice Fish and Chips Award

Chosen by consumers, this award will be presented to a food outlet that has demonstrated excellence in consistently providing customers with quality seafood. As part of the Australian Fish and Chips Awards, fish and chips lovers across Australia were able to nominate and vote for their favourite outlet via social media. Votes for each outlet were shown on a leader board at www.fishandchipsawards.com.au

About the (judged) Fish and Chips Award

As part of the Australian Fish and Chips Awards, this award was presented to a take away food outlet that has demonstrated excellence in consistently providing customers with quality seafood.

- **Taste** – the fish tastes fresh and is cooked appropriately
- **Quality** – Seafood consistently meets customer expectations for quality seafood.
- **Choice** – Seafood includes a range of seafood, including Australian seafood.
- **Information** – Customers are provided accurate information about the seafood, whether it is sustainable or where it is caught or from.
- **Labelling** – the menu complies with the Australian Standard for Fish Names and, preferably, provenance labelling.

NB. The top 3 nominations from the People's Choice Fish & Chips Award category automatically qualified for the (judged) Fish & Chip Award, whereby the judging panel secretly dined at the top 3 entrants for this category, to ensure the seafood meals, service, ambiance and menu met the specified requirements and a winner was selected.