



MEDIA STATEMENT

3 August 2017 (Embargoed until 7.30pm)

World's first commercial abalone ranch wins WA Seafood Industry Award

Ocean Grown Abalone Ltd (OGA) was last night recognised when it won the Seafood Industry Producer 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 industry participants and representatives of various stakeholder groups.

After 20 years of research and development of abalone ranching techniques and technology along with overcoming complex government approvals and industry challenges, Ocean Grown Abalone is now the world's first commercial abalone ranch.

Those years of research are finally paying dividends. In 2016, Ocean Grown Abalone had their first commercial harvest of 12 tonnes delivered to markets in Hong Kong.

This year, OGA have already commenced harvest and are on track to deliver 40 tonnes of premium greenlip abalone to market.

WA Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) Chairman, Mr Clayton Nelson said OGA had demonstrated excellence in the sustainable production of quality seafood through innovation in fishing or aquaculture practices, and that has contributed substantially towards a positive public profile for the seafood industry.

"Abalone is a very high value product and OGA has developed innovative methods to improve production practices and ultimately increase supply.

"The abalone produced from OGA's sea ranch is identical to the highly sought after wild catch product, but has the competitive advantages that only aquaculture production can provide.

"OGA can supply year-round to meet market demands to whatever size or product specification the market requires, which is an enviable market position," Mr Nelson concluded.

The application from Brown Dog Fishing Co was recognised by judges as Highly Commended.

For further information regarding the awards, please contact:

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About the Seafood Industry Producer Award

Presented to a seafood primary producer that has demonstrated excellence in the sustainable production of quality seafood through innovation in fishing or aquaculture practices, and that has contributed substantially towards a positive public profile for the seafood industry.