



WAFIC WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
FISHING INDUSTRY
COUNCIL INC



Will this be our last WA seafood Christmas?

This Christmas, the usual cheer and family gatherings for many WA fishing families are overshadowed by worry as they urgently await the State Government's response to their request to re-examine the decision to ban commercial fishing in the West Coast bioregion.

This ban comes into effect on 1 January 2026. It directly threatens the livelihoods of fishers, deckhands, and crew, as well as our entire local seafood supply chain and the local communities they support – and it may be the last year Christmas can be celebrated with a table full of WA's finest seafood.

The consequences stretch far beyond our dinner tables. Replacing local seafood with imports means prices will go up, quality will go down, we lose local jobs, generations of skill and expertise will be eroded, and the entire ecosystem of businesses that support our fishing communities will be lost. We must ask:

- **How will lost seafood supply be replaced?**
- **What is the plan to avoid import dependence?**
- **How will seafood affordability be maintained?**
- **How will vessels, skilled fishers and processing capacity be redeployed?**

It doesn't take a Christmas miracle to keep commercial fishing going, and to keep WA fish stocks at safe levels. It just takes collaboration. Let's work together to keep WA seafood on WA plates.

Commercial fishers ... we're fishing for everybody.

Authorised by the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council

demersal.wafic.org.au

