



Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck
Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
Senator for Tasmania

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Workshop to strengthen relationship of seafood and petroleum industries

Australia's seafood and offshore petroleum industries will benefit from a workshop held today that provides a forum to discuss issues and opportunities to promote stronger relationships into the future.

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources Senator Richard Colbeck said both industries make an important economic contribution to Australia and share a commitment to safe and environmentally-responsible operations.

"The Coalition Government is committed to supporting a sustainable seafood industry, protecting the marine environment and encouraging the investment in, and development of, Australia's offshore petroleum resources," Minister Colbeck said.

"Our oceans are a shared resource and coordination between both industries will allow them to continue to be major job creators for regional Australians.

"That means open dialogue, better information sharing and constructive cooperation, including the joint research already underway to identify effects of seismic testing on fisheries.

"Australia is a world leader in sustainable fisheries management and has one of the most robust regulatory regimes for offshore oil and gas exploration and development in the world.

"This workshop will build on the successes already under our belts as well as review the Memorandum of Understanding between the industries.

"The challenge for the fisheries and petroleum industries is to learn from past experiences and move forward in a way that promotes collaboration and a constructive and positive relationship between the industries – it is important that they work together cooperatively."

Fast facts:

- **In 2014 the oil and gas industry signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with several of Australia's peak commercial fishing, aquaculture and seafood industry associations.**
- **The renewed MoU will aim to improve the consultation practices between the industries and Seafood Industry Australia.**
- **No petroleum activity, including seismic surveys, can occur in Australian waters without a valid petroleum title and an Environment Plan accepted by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA).**