

To whom it may concern.

We would like to express our concern, or rather: horror, to learn that Australia still has to even think twice about banning super trawler fishing or similar bad fishing practices.

Killing lots of “unwanted side-catch” in the wake of establishing profits for a few fishing companies in already overfished waters that we humans constantly threaten with our poisonous way of life – seriously, I believe, we can do better in the 21st century!

We, as consumers, are prepared to pay the price for more sustainable fishing practices and eat seafood with a cleaner conscience. We want to know where our seafood comes from and how it gets to the market. It also can't be that private individuals undergo close scrutiny about their fishing practices but commercial fishing industry can pretty much do what they want because that's where the money comes from.

As a child, I grew up reading this North American Indian prophecy over and over again and it made a lasting impression:

Only when the last tree has been cut down
The last animal hunted
The last river poisoned and
The last fish caught,
Only then will you discover
That you cannot eat money.

Our planet is threatened enough as it is by what generations of humans have done to it. We need to change our ways to leave a better legacy to our children!

Please ensure with this review - and legislation derived from it - that:

- A **permanent** ban is established for “super trawlers” and other fishing methods that destroy marine biodiversity and fishery. Stop any fishing methodologies that have a history of extensive marine biodiversity & fishery destruction!
- Commercial fishing becomes a “clean catch”, i.e. ONLY catches what it is setting out to catch. Dolphins, seals and other species that are not “used” for market profits need to be protected in the fishing processes so they don't get caught as well and therefore end up dying!
- Commercial fishing is put under closer scrutiny to ensure individual species don't get overfished and other marine life including flora is protected in the process so it can still flourish.
- Food labelling practices are further improved to inform and enable choice for the consumer, e.g. a form of eco-label or label (like the “dolphin-friendly” label) to guarantee “gentle” fishing processes, protective of marine fauna etc., which can only be obtained by fishing companies under strict standards and ongoing control/ observation of their practices, including unannounced checks on at least annual basis.
- Independent research is being funded that looks into the impact of the fishing industry as a whole and commercial fishing in particular on marine ecosystems.
- Australian fisheries management legislation is being updated to ensure transparency and access to information for all levels and processes of fisheries and marine resource management.
- Increased objectivity and fairness is established in the resourcing of all marine research and management, including fisheries.
- A legislation is implemented to guarantee true ecosystems-based and precautionary approaches to fisheries management.
- Fisheries must be managed in a way that maintains ecological processes and looks after fish populations sustainably.

Sincerely, James and Inga