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MEDIA RELEASE

SEAFOOD LINKS TO PREVENTION OF DISEASES

SEA Chairman, Dr Ron Edwards, welcomed the information that the Federal Government would be handing out a 'work in progress' health report at the Council of Australia Governments meeting in Sydney on 3 July calling for urgent efforts to stabilise and educate people at high risk of health problems.

"For a long time we have been aware of the linkages between seafood consumption and health issues and we look forward to working with the Federal Government on this process. Our partners at Seafood Services Australia (SSA) have been highlighting these issues for many years and in conjunction with their 'Global Seafood for Health' program and the Australian Seafood Cooperative Research Centre have been involved in both reporting on medical scientific evidence that highlights this and bringing medical experts to Australia."

"We note that Health Minister Nicola Roxon has said 'it was clear that Australia needed to undergo a significant cultural shift to tackle obesity' we also believe the same applies for many other life threatening diseases where there is proof that a change of diet with the inclusion of a minimum of two seafood meals per week will help prevent the problems occurring."

"SEA will keep reminding everyone in Australia that seafood is one of the healthiest, most convenient and delicious foods available. It is also versatile and great value for money, quick and easy to prepare and there are literally thousands of species and recipes to choose from. The sheer variety of species of seafood is often something which has created confusion and again, we acknowledge the tremendous work SSA have done in taking the initiative by creating the Australian Standard® AS SSA 5300 – 2007: Australian Fish Names Standard and are launching their Accreditation Scheme this week at the Sydney Fish Market (the first organisation to be accredited under the scheme)."

Ron added "SEA are working hard on the launch of the website www.australianseafood.com.au which will be very consumer orientated and will provide linkages to independent data relating to many aspects of seafood and the industry. In the meantime we stand ready to work with Governments to educate the public about the many benefits that eating seafood twice a week will bring - the choice is almost endless and certainly inspiring."

FURTHER INFORMATION: SEA Chairman, Dr Ron Edwards, 0408 925 805 or SEA Executive Officer Mr Roy Palmer, 0419 528 733.

Websites:

SEA – www.australianseafood.com.au

SSA – www.seafood.net.au

Australian Seafood Cooperative Research Centre – www.seafoodcrc.com

Other information:

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/states-told-prevention-much-cheaper-than-cure-20080621-2umb.html>

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