



## Media Release

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### A need to keep pace with change

While the value of Australian aquaculture has grown, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century challenges faced by the aquaculture industry must continue to be addressed. Increased demands on aquaculture due to lost fishery production and consumer desire for 'Australian' produce further amplify the need for production improvement.

A report on Australian fisheries was released last week by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE) and highlights a \$63 million increase in the value of Australian aquaculture.

The report reveals the value of Australian aquaculture production increased by eight per cent in 2007-08.

Australian Aquaculture Conference Chairman, Roy Palmer said the increase in aquaculture production is positive, however there is a need to keep pace with the changing environmental and economic factors that challenge the aquaculture industry.

“While the news of increased Aquaculture production is very good news for Australia, we are still slipping regarding total tonnages when compared to international competitors.”

Mr Palmer acknowledged the importance of government support in order to continue to increase Australian aquaculture production.

“In order to meet the increasing need for supplies, Australia must, with government support, continue to build on its successes. Seafood is one of the most nutritious foods and it is essential for Australia's food security.”

The 2010 Australasian Aquaculture International Conference and Trade Show has a theme of 'Keeping Pace with Change' and will address the challenges faced by the aquaculture industry including environmental concerns, economics and the need for technological adaptation.

Exploring the issues that affect future increases in Australian aquaculture production, the conference will provide a forum in which every aspect of aquaculture is discussed and challenged.

The conference will be held in Hobart 23-26 May 2010 and relates to governments as well as industry.

For more information, contact Roy Palmer, 0419 528 733

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