



## MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 27 November 2012

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Inquiry into the Role of Science for Fisheries and Aquaculture

Chair: *The Hon Dick Adams MP*  
Deputy Chair: *Mr Alby Schultz MP*

#### **Netting the benefits** **The role of science for the future of fisheries and aquaculture** — *Inquiry report released today* —

The *Netting the benefits* report, released by the Agriculture, Resources, Fisheries and Forestry Committee, has called for the development of a new national regional policy statement on fisheries, aquaculture and recreational fishing – along with 21 other recommendations.

Committee Chair Dick Adams MP said: “Investment in science is the key to driving our fisheries and aquaculture industries to new levels of efficiency, improving product quality and maintaining Australia’s position as a leader of knowledge in this area. In particular, opportunities must be harnessed for Australian aquaculture to contribute to the global food supply, now and in the future.”

In addition to the Committee’s call for a new national statement to be drafted to be the basis for all future policy development; some of the Committee’s other recommendations include that there be:

- improved national reporting of fisheries and aquaculture statistics;
- further study and analysis of climate change implications;
- development of a ‘one stop shop’ model for project approvals – including environmental assessments;
- drafting a new guideline on precaution that has input from all stakeholders and includes realistic risk assessments; and
- a Productivity Commission inquiry into the efficiency of the fishing industry and its governance arrangements.

The report has also called for fisheries management to be free from political direction. “The community was mobilised to oppose the supertrawler based on unfounded fear, despite the fact that scientists in the field explained that its impacts would be no greater than for other methods of fishing,” Mr Adams said. “We should not be managing fisheries by changing the rules in high profile cases through emergency measures.”

The inquiry commenced in March 2012, with public hearings and site inspections taking place in Canberra, Perth, Hobart and Townsville. The Committee heard evidence from scientists, industry representatives, environmental groups and government departments.

Copies of the report can be obtained from the Committee’s website:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House\\_of\\_Representatives\\_Committees?url=arff/fisheries/report.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=arff/fisheries/report.htm)

#### **MEDIA CONFERENCE**

The Committee will hold a media conference at **9.15am on Wednesday 28 November 2012 in Committee Room 2R2, Parliament House CANBERRA.**

**For media comment:** please contact the Committee Chair, the Hon Dick Adams MP, on (03) 6398 1115 or email [D.Adams.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:D.Adams.MP@aph.gov.au)

**For background information:** contact the Committee Secretary (02) 6277 4500, email [arff.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:arff.reps@aph.gov.au) or visit the Committee’s webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/arff>