



Sources for article:

'Australia's wild caught fisheries: why we need a parliamentary enquiry into fisheries now, and what the nuclear option would be'

This document lists key public sources that support the major factual points made in the article. It is not exhaustive, but it provides a transparent starting point for readers, journalists and policymakers who want to verify claims or explore the evidence in more detail.

1. Decline in commercial licences and wild caught operators

- **NSW Parliament Research Service – 'Fisheries Management in NSW: The Fisheries Management Bill 1994' (PDF)**

Link:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/researchpapers/Documents/Fisheries%20Management%20in%20NSW%20-%20The%20Fisheries%20Management%20Bill%201994.pdf>

Brief: Background paper noting that in 1992 there were 2,206 holders of commercial fishing licences in NSW, providing a baseline for later decline in licence numbers.

- **NSW Parliament Research Service – 'Commercial Fishing in NSW: Origins and Development to the Early 1990s' (PDF)**

Link: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/researchpapers/Documents/commercial-fishing-in-nsw-origins-and-developmen/FISHING.pdf>

Brief: Historical overview of commercial fishing in NSW, describing the large number of small operators and the development of regulated fisheries over time.

- **FRDC – 'NSW Inland Commercial Fishery Data Analysis' (PDF)**

Link: <https://www.frdc.com.au/sites/default/files/products/1994-027-DLD.pdf>

Brief: Technical report showing how licence numbers in the NSW inland commercial fishery reduced from a peak to much smaller numbers by the mid-1990s, illustrating long-term consolidation trends.

2. Growth of seafood imports and changes in consumption

- **ABARES – 'Snapshot of Australia's commercial fisheries and aquaculture' (webpage)**

Link: <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/insights/snapshot-of-australias-commercial-fisheries-and-aquaculture>

Brief: Explains that between 2001–02 and 2016–17, the share of imports in Australian seafood consumption increased from 59% to 66%, demonstrating rising dependence on imported seafood.



- **ABARES – 'Australia's commercial fisheries and aquaculture' 2018 report (PDF)**
Link: https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/abares/documents/AustraliaCommercialFisheriesAquaculture20181218_v1.0.0.pdf
Brief: Provides detailed national statistics on seafood production, trade and consumption, including the long-term increase in the share of imports in Australian seafood consumption.
- **ABARES – 'Fisheries and aquaculture statistics' (webpage, latest infographic)**
Link: <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/research-topics/fisheries/fisheries-and-aquaculture-statistics>
Brief: Portal summarising the most recent national fisheries statistics, including wild-catch and aquaculture production, trade data and consumption trends.

3. Biosecurity risks and white spot disease in prawns

- **Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries – 'White Spot Disease of Prawns: Advisory Panel Report' (PDF)**
Link: https://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/1237285/wssv-advisory-panel-report.pdf
Brief: Technical advisory report concluding that the most likely source of the Logan River white spot disease outbreak was the use of imported uncooked green prawns as bait.
- **Inspector-General of Biosecurity – 'Uncooked prawn imports: effectiveness of biosecurity controls' (webpage)**
Link: <https://www.igb.gov.au/uncooked-prawn-imports-effectiveness-biosecurity-controls>
Brief: Review of biosecurity controls on uncooked prawn imports, noting the suspension of imports following the 2016 white spot outbreak in prawn farms near the Logan River.
- **Australian Prawn Farmers Association / FRDC – 'Field observations and assessment of the response to an outbreak of White Spot Disease' (PDF)**
Link: <https://www.igb.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/aust-prawn-farmers.pdf>
Brief: Industry submission drawing on FRDC-funded research into the 2016 white spot outbreak in farmed prawns on the Logan River, providing scientific detail on disease detection and response.



4. Recreational Fishing Havens and removal of commercial access

- **NSW DPI – 'Recreational Fishing Havens' (webpage)**
Link: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/info/recreational-fishing-areas/rfh>
Brief: Describes the establishment of 30 Recreational Fishing Havens in NSW and explains that money from the Recreational Fishing Fee funded a \$20 million buyout of commercial fishing entitlements in those areas.
- **NSW DPI – 'Recreational Fishing Havens Report to the Minister' (PDF)**
Link: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/135637/rfh-report.pdf
Brief: Report outlining the policy rationale, buyback process and outcomes of creating Recreational Fishing Havens, confirming the scale of commercial licence purchase and the closure of commercial fishing in those estuaries.
- **NSW DPI – 'NSW Recreational Saltwater Fishing Guide 2024–2025' (PDF)**
Link: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0012/600222/NSWDPIRD-Saltwater-Fishing-Guide-2024.pdf
Brief: Current recreational guide that references Recreational Fishing Havens and reiterates that revenue from the recreational fishing fee was used to fund a \$20 million buyout of commercial entitlements.

5. Blue Swimmer Crab size limits and sector treatment

- **NSW DPI – 'Crab population to improve with recreational size limit changes' (media release)**
Link: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/media-centre/releases/2021/crab-population-to-improve-with-recreational-size-limit-changes>
Brief: Announces that the recreational minimum legal size for Blue Swimmer Crabs in NSW will increase from 60 mm to 65 mm, explicitly stating that this aligns the recreational limit with the existing commercial size limit.
- **Fishing World – 'Blue swimmer crab size limit increase in NSW' (news article)**
Link: <https://fishingworld.com.au/news/blue-swimmer-crab-size-limit-increase-in-nsw/>
Brief: Recreational fishing media report confirming that from 30 April 2021 the Blue Swimmer Crab size limit for recreational fishers in NSW increased to 6.5 cm, matching the commercial rule.



- **NSW DPI – 'Blue Swimmer Crab Stock Status Summary 2020–21' (PDF)**
Link: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1343546/stock-status-summary-2020-21-blue-swimmer-crab.pdf
Brief: Stock status summary noting a legal minimum size of 65 mm carapace length for both commercial and recreational fishers, supporting the point that both sectors now share the higher size limit.

6. FRDC funding scale and investment

- **FRDC – Annual Report 2022–23 (PDF)**
Link: https://www.frdc.com.au/sites/default/files/2023-10/FRDC_AR_2022-23.pdf
Brief: Annual report stating that over \$33 million was invested in 2022–23 across 134 projects, illustrating the scale of annual RD&E spending funded by government and industry.
- **FRDC – 'FRDC 2022–23 investment for innovation and impact' (webpage)**
Link: <https://www.frdc.com.au/frdc-2022-23-investment-innovation-and-impact>
Brief: Summary article highlighting FRDC's 2022–23 investment profile, reiterating the \$33 million figure and the number of projects, and outlining the organisation's role in directing fisheries and aquaculture RD&E.
- **Transparency.gov.au – 'Snapshot of 2022–23: Fisheries Research and Development Corporation' (webpage)**
Link: <https://www.transparency.gov.au/publications/agriculture-water-and-the-environment/fisheries-research-and-development-corporation/fisheries-research-and-development-corporation-annual-report-2022-23/snapshot-of-2022%E2%80%9323>
Brief: Government transparency portal summarising FRDC's 2022–23 activities, including project numbers and the \$33 million invested in research, development and extension.

7. Western Australian demersal fishing reforms and sector bias

- **Government of Western Australia – 'New statewide reforms for demersal fishing in WA' (announcement)**
Link: <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/new-statewide-reforms-demersal-fishing-wa>
Brief: Official announcement detailing new demersal fishing rules, including the permanent closure of the West Coast bioregion to commercial demersal fishing from 1 January 2026 and 50% catch reductions for commercial fisheries in other regions.

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- **ABC News – 'Demersal fishing ban announced for commercial fishers off WA coast'**
Link: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-12-03/perth-wa-strict-fishing-ban-commercial-recreational-fishers/106095814>

Brief: News report explaining that commercial fishers will be permanently banned from catching key demersal species such as dhufish off parts of the WA coast, while most other fisheries face 50% catch cuts, illustrating the heavier burden on commercial operators.

8. Labour abuses and human rights issues in imported seafood supply chains

- **Environmental Justice Foundation – 'Thailand's Seafood Slaves' (web summary)**

Link: <https://ejfoundation.org/reports/thailands-seafood-slaves>

Brief: Overview of investigations into trafficking, forced labour and extreme abuse aboard Thai fishing vessels and in associated seafood supply chains.

- **Environmental Justice Foundation – 'Thailand's Seafood Slaves: Human Trafficking, Slavery and Murder in Kantang's Fishing Industry' (PDF)**

Link: <https://ejfoundation.org/resources/downloads/EJF-Thailand-Seafood-Slaves-low-res.pdf>

Brief: Full report documenting cases of slavery, human trafficking and violence in the Thai fishing industry, frequently cited in discussions of ethical risks in imported seafood.

- **The Guardian – 'Thai seafood: are the prawns on your plate still fished by slaves?'**
Link: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/jan/23/thai-seafood-industry-report-trafficking-rights-abuses>

Brief: Investigative article summarising ongoing trafficking and labour abuses in the Thai seafood sector and challenging retailers to guarantee abuse-free supply chains.

Note: These sources support the main factual claims in the article but do not cover every point made. They are intended as a transparent starting point for further scrutiny and for preparing formal submissions or briefing materials.