

## RECOGNISING INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE

THE Northern Territory's \$260million seafood industry celebrated its night of nights with the announcement of its prestigious biennial Northern Territory Seafood Industry Awards in Darwin last week.

More than 200 industry representatives, supporting businesses and other representatives from the NT Government and Northern Land Council attended the industry's gala

seafood ball and awards night held at the International Terminal at Stokes Hill Wharf on June 9.

Eight awards, recognising outstanding industry achievement were awarded on the night

Industry spokesperson Rob Fish was rapt with the turn-out, saying: "It's great to see our stakeholders celebrating the industry's successes during the past two years."

The major awards announced on the night went to Australia Bay Seafoods (Industry Producer Award), NT Fish Pty Ltd (Business Award) and barramundi fisherman Domenico Fazio (Icon Award).

All category winners will now receive an automatic nomination into the Australian Seafood Industry Awards, where winners will be announced in Hobart in November.



The 2007 NT Seafood Industry Award winners

### THE 2007 NT SEAFOOD INDUSTRY AWARD WINNERS

#### Award: Seafood Industry Producer Award Sponsor: NT Government

This award is presented to a producer that demonstrates excellence in the production of high-quality seafood, improved fishing/farming practices, innovation, promotion of a positive industry image and overall contribution to the industry.

#### Winner: Australia Bay Seafoods

**Judges comment:** Australia Bay Seafoods, as the largest exporter of tropical fish from Australia for many years, is not only consistent with high-quality seafood but has a commitment to ensuring the ecological and economic sustainability of the contribution of health of the wider industry.

#### Award: Seafood Business Award Sponsor: ConocoPhillips

This award goes to a seafood-related business that has demonstrated business growth, innovation, excellence in product, service, marketing and made a significant contribution to the future of seafood industry.

#### Winner: NT Fish Pty Ltd

**Judges comment:** NT Fish demonstrated a realisation of the potential for not only creating markets world-wide, but has been able to establish a sustainable supply which has benefited the whole of the NT's commercial fishing industry.

#### Award: Seafood Restaurant Award Sponsor: NT Seafood Council

This award is presented to a seafood restaurant that has demonstrated excellence in consistently providing customers with high-quality seafood and a positive seafood experience.

#### Winner: La Beach Restaurant

**Judges comment:** An excellent dining experience in a fantastic beachside restaurant. Their knowledge and promotion of local seafood was excellent, and although they are expensive you certainly get what you pay for.

#### Award: Seafood Industry Promotion Award Sponsor: NT Seafood Council

This award goes to an individual, company, organisation, promotion activity or event that has made a substantial positive contribution towards improving the public profile of seafood and the seafood industry.

#### Winner: NT WINS – Women in Seafood

**Judges comment:** NT WINS improved the profile of the industry for the NT with the introduction of the 2005 gala ball and awards night. Their efforts resulted in six NT nominations into the Australian Seafood Industry Awards. Four NT nominees became finalists, this was the first time the NT was represented at the national awards.

#### Award: Seafood Training Award Sponsor: Santos

This award is presented in recognition of excellence in seafood training.

#### Winner: John McMaster

**Judges comment:** A valuable trainer for Seafood Maritime Industries and Training for more than 10 years, John is passionate about the industry and has shared his skills and knowledge and encouraged others to become the best at what they do in the seafood industry.

#### Award: Environment Award Sponsor: Northern Seafoods Pty Ltd

This award is presented to an individual, company, organisation, activity, project or event that has contributed significantly to protecting or rehabilitating fisheries environments and ecosystems, innovation and/or maintaining the industry's impact on the environment.

#### Winner: Anindilyakwa Land Council Sea Rangers

**Judges comment:** The Anindilyakwa people were one of the first groups to participate in marine debris and ghost net surveys in 1997. A team of eight sea rangers patrol 40 islands by boat, car and also once a month by plane.

#### Award: Seafood Industry Icon Sponsor: NT WINS – Women in Seafood

This award is presented to an individual, company or organisation whose contribution has made a real and positive difference to the industry, including outstanding contributions over a sustained period of time and the establishment of positive, precedent setting outcomes that have secured a more secure future for the industry.

#### Winner: Domenico Fazio

**Judges comment:** A well-respected natural leader with a passion in the seafood industry

that would be very hard to beat. The contributions Domenico has sustained over the industry's time are nothing short of outstanding. Domenico has made it his passion as a fisherman and for all others to secure a very bright future for the industry.

#### Award: Research and Development Award Sponsor: Australia Bay Seafoods

This award recognises excellence in research and development outcomes relevant to the sustainability or profitability of the NT seafood industry.

#### Winner: Julie Lloyd and Philippe Puig

**Judges comment:** The work of Julie and Philippe has already proven valuable and is attracting external interest with enquiries from other fisheries.



The Seafood Training Award winner – Capt John McMaster

