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Australia-UK FTA Coordinator
Regional Trade Agreements Division
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Submission to the potential Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement (AU-UK FTA)

Austral Fisheries welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on a very important bi-lateral Free Trade Agreement between Australia and the UK.

Of particular interest to Austral Fisheries is the opportunity to export our high-quality sustainable seafood products to UK customers at competitive pricing. All of Austral's wild catch is certified 'sustainable' by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), an independent non-profit organisation founded and headquarter in London.

Many seafood importers and wholesalers based in the UK have reached out to Austral Fisheries over the past 10 years for supply of our MSC certified products but the negotiations of possible supply fade once the importer/buyer calculates the enormous tariffs applied to importing Australian seafood. For too long, this trade barrier has been a hurdle too big for UK importers to jump and makes it considerably hard to trade products supported and endorsed by the MSC itself.

Sustainable seafood is an emerging trend for UK supermarkets and consumers. The UK is rated No.1 in the world for use of the MSC logo. All of Austral's wild catch products bear the MSC logo and would be great addition for UK supermarkets and consumers seeking more sustainable seafood options.

In addition to MSC Certification, Austral Fisheries is the only seafood company in the world to be certified Carbon Neutral. UK consumers looking for products that help fight climate change could also have access to seafood products making a difference to the planet.

The following page lists the applicable seafood products from Austral Fisheries subject to high import duty by HS code and duty payable:

List of applicable HS codes for Austral Fisheries seafood products to the UK:

Patagonian toothfish fillets:	030485 (Frozen)
Patagonian toothfish H&G:	030383 (Frozen)
Endeavour prawn:	030617 (Frozen)
Tiger prawn:	030617 (Frozen)
Banana prawn:	030617 (Frozen)

Current import duty payable for Austral Fisheries seafood products:

Source: www.trade-tariff.service.gov.uk

Patagonian toothfish:	14% Import Duty (Nil VAT – zero rate)
Prawns:	12% Import Duty (Nil VAT – zero rate)

The UK market is heavily dependent on 'value added' seafood. A reduction in tariffs would increase demand for Australian seafood creating a significant increase in value added production and Australian jobs.

Austral Fisheries represents 71% of the entire Australian toothfish industry and 30% of the Northern Australian Prawn Fishery – the largest prawn fishery in Australia. Our request to remove tariffs is a significant representation of the Australian seafood industry for the above listed species.

We welcome both governments interest to developing an FTA between both countries and look forward to the many valuable synergies possible for sustainable Australian seafood and UK customers.

King regards,



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Chief Executive Officer

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