

# The export market for NT seafood has never been more important.

## But without an export licence we can't move a muscle.

Australia Bay Seafoods is the largest supplier of tropical snapper and a key exporter of Northern Territory fish. Or rather, it was, before the NT Dept of Fisheries allowed its export licence to expire on 13 June this year.



statements saying they are acting 'on the best available science'.

But the biomass survey they're referring to is far from being 'the best available' since it was conducted in 1990 and is now completely obsolete.

Strange that the government is giving grants to encourage export, but at the same time allowing a key fish export licence to expire.

The NT Dept of Fisheries had 6 years to apply for a renewed export licence for the Demersal Fishery but refused to do so as it wanted to merge two fisheries.

A merger which would seriously reduce the value of the larger Demersal Fishery without compensation, transfer property rights to the licence holders of the much smaller and less productive Timor Reef Fishery, and potentially threaten the sustainability of both fisheries.

Instead of providing detailed economic and environmental reasons for the merger proposal, the NT Dept of Fisheries issues motherhood

For the Minister and the NT Dept of Fisheries to defend their position in this way is an embarrassment.

Why is the Minister and the NT Dept of Fisheries pushing ahead with merging two fisheries before waiting to see the results of a new biomass survey? Maybe it's an attempt to cover up an initially excessive catch allocation in the Timor Reef Fishery?

Australia Bay Seafoods are fighting this action by the NT Government on behalf of all commercial fishers as it could set a precedent that will undermine the security of all quota managed fisheries. We are standing up for the thousands of hard-working Territorians who make up the primary producer communities the Northern Territory economy depends on.

**For more information visit [AustraliaBay.com](http://AustraliaBay.com)**

