



Elaine Lewthwaite

Elaine was the first woman elected to the Board of the Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA) in 2008. Elaine has an extensive knowledge of the seafood industry- gained through her business as a partner in the 15 metre trawler 'FV Karlyle' in the East Coast Trawl Fishery from the port of Hervey Bay and within the onshore processing sector. Her retail outlet (Birneys Seafood, Torquay Hervey Bay) won 2 business awards. She was a Queensland state finalist in the 2011 RIRDC Rural Woman of the Year Award.

Her involvement with QSIA spans some 30 years, including holding the position of Secretary of Urangan Branch of the Qld Commercial Fisherman's Organisation (now QSIA) from 1986 to 2002.

Elaine is the coordinator of the multiple award winning Hervey Bay Seafood Festival. Under her leadership, the Hervey Bay Seafood Festival has become an iconic Queensland festival and recognised as a significant tourism driver for the state.

Holding various roles including Chair of the Promotions committee, and project management, Elaine has successfully increased the profile of wild catch seafood through her association with leading chefs and food writers. Other roles include the current industry liaison officer and coordinator of the Associations Environmental Management Systems for seafood.

Elaine's vision is for the seafood industry to be recognised as a food industry and for Queensland wild catch seafood to be acknowledged a key driver in destination food tourism.