

Fish Know No Jurisdiction

Michael Coates
Fishing Industry Solicitor

Michael Richard Coates

Barrister & Solicitor – Adelaide Uni 1969 – 1973

Arbitrator – Institute of Arbitrators 1992

Practicing predominantly from Port Lincoln, South Australia

Principal area of practice – acting for families involved in fishing and including:-

Expertise -

- Acting for fishers in all fishing industries in relation to their commercial activities including joint venture activities in Australia and overseas, creation of overseas fishing and aquaculture activities, contract, insurance, freight, estate, financial, challenging government, defending prosecutions and general legal requirements.
- Acting for associations of commercial fishers.
- Developing and working with member groups of fishers to develop a unified approach to achieve sustainable self-management.
- Developing and working with credible bodies and associations for peak fishing industry discussions with State and Commonwealth governments.
- Challenging the implementation of State and Federal legislation in relation to the regulation of fishing activities through political and legal methods.
- Participating in the development of management strategies and Codes of Practice in the fisheries of Southern Australia.

Representations –

- Fishers in all aspects of their commercial operations.
- Tuna fishers from Australia and Japan in Southern Bluefin tuna, Skipjack tuna and Yellowfin tuna including purse seining and long lining.
- Tuna farmers – Southern Bluefin tuna in Australia and Northern Bluefin in Croatia.
- Aquaculturists – oysters and finfish.
- Prawn fishers in South Australia and Northern Territory.
- Abalone fishers in South Australia, Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania.
- Scale and shark fishers in South Australia, Western Australia and Victoria.
- Rock lobster fishers in South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria.
- Fish processors, exporters and importers in Australia and overseas.
- River and inland waters fishers in South Australia.

International Experience –

- Acting for Japanese owner of distant water long line tuna vessel in successfully de-arresting vessel from the Republic of Tuvalu and eliminating prosecution.
- Advising the Japan Tuna Federation in relation to the treaties with the Pacific nations.
- Assisting an Australian tuna fishing client to establish a Northern Bluefin tuna farm in Croatia.
- Acting for Japanese owners of distant water long line tuna vessels and the Japan Tuna Federation in defending prosecution in Australia.
- Negotiating joint venture interests between Australian and international fishers.
- Negotiating the sale and purchase of various vessels into and out of Australia in various shipping registry systems.
- Negotiating access arrangements for Australian tuna fishers in Pacific region.

My personality is suited to acting for humans, not institutions and Port Lincoln has been an ideal place to develop a practice.

My other activities include oyster farming, farming, rally driving and surfing.