Katherine Hawes @ Aquarius Lawyers is a Barrister, practicing Solicitor, business influencer, social entrepreneur and media personality, based in Sydney, Australia.

Known as the ‘Fish Lawyer’, Katherine is passionate about the Marine and Aquaculture industries has provided clients with Legal Strategy on marine business, commercial fisheries, defence of fisheries prosecutions. Aquaculture, maritime security, commercial shipping, cruise liners, marine resources management and marine and fisheries international law.

Katherine has appeared before the full bench of the High Court and is often asked to be a guest lecturer at Australian universities on topics such as International Fisheries Law and Tourism Law. Her passion is the ‘blue economy’ where the growth of shipping and aquaculture business requires further regulation on how the blue space will be utilised for future generations.

As an experienced legal practitioner Katherine recognises that you must niche your business and not be everything to everybody. Her focus on shipping and aquaculture coupled with a love of education led to the formation of her own training company, Aquarius Education, which offers a wide range of education programs including training for agents in Maritime Law.

Using a virtual law firm business model to provide a consistent standard of services from initial client contact through to completion of the Legal Strategy, Aquarius Lawyers focus is on ensuring our services and products reduce time and cost for our clients while achieving their outcomes. Katherine is an early adopter of new technology to ensure that her clients can make contact easily, are kept up to date and can self-service their legal documents from anywhere, anytime/

Katherine is a member of the Centre for Legal Innovation and is involved in lobbying the Law Society to commence an advisory panel on the rise of Artificial Intelligence Law, robotics and block chain technology in marine and aquaculture commercial business practice. These two technologies alone will shape the future of both shipping and aquaculture globally as we trace products from catch to consumer. Data from these technologies can assist in issues such as overfishing, redevelopment of low stock levels, species management and assist in emerging shipping and aquaculture markets.

In the APAC Region there are different States of Australia with different legal systems and Maritime Law is still based on 18th Century legal principles. This lack of contemporary regulation around the shipping and aquaculture industries does not bode well for the use of future enabling technologies to develop the ‘blue economy’.

As the “Fish Lawyer’ Katherine is in a unique position to use her knowledge and experience to assist in guiding the review of shipping and aquaculture regulation and the implementation of new technologies that can assist the reshaping and further development of the ‘blue economy’.