

WEST COAST DEMERSAL SCALEFISH — STATEMENT OF DETERMINATION

**1101. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Fisheries:**

I refer to the *West coast demersal finfish charter tag quota: statement of determination for 2023–24*.

- (1) Can the minister please table the catch data that was used to determine the allocation of quota tags to fishing tour operator licence holders in the west coast zone in the statement of determination?
- (2) Can the minister please explain why the historical catch of 15 demersal species was used as the only determining factor in the statement of determination?
- (3) Does the minister accept that use of the catch data for all FTOL holders to determine the tag allocation for the four quota species—without regard to the licensed passenger capacity of each FTOL operator, whether under 10 passengers or over 10 passengers, and for the 15 demersal species nominated instead of the four quota species sought to be protected—adversely discriminates against those local FTOL holders licensed to carry under 10 passengers in favour of allocation of the tags to those who have previously caught the most and seemingly have had the biggest impact on demersal fish stocks generally?

**Hon PIERRE YANG replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I provide the following answer on behalf of the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Fisheries.

- (1) Data reported in statutory returns by fishing tour operator licence holders is confidential information under section 250 of the Fish Resources Management Act 1994 and cannot be tabled.
- (2)–(3) Following consultation with the charter sector, the implementation of a tag system was adopted as the preferred approach to manage the charter catch of demersal scalefish in the west coast region. The allocation of tags considered catch history based on the top 15 species in the west coast bioregion. This accounts for over 90 per cent of the total catch of demersal scalefish by the charter sector. The allocation of tags based on catch history was the most equitable way to distribute tags and was supported by industry through the consultation process.