

CERVANTES - FISHING BOAT TARPING

**692. Hon BRUCE DONALDSON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for the Environment:**

Some considerable notice of this question has been given. I refer to question without notice 329 of 29 May, in particular parts (5) and (6), with regard to the practice of tarping fishing vessels in a marine park to clean the bottoms of the hulls without slipping the vessels.

- (1) Has the Department of Environment and Conservation liaised with the rock lobster fishing industry to determine the extent of this activity in the marine park?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) Has any lawful authority been granted to any fishermen under the Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002 to carry out this practice?
- (4) Will the minister take action to prosecute any fishermen who undertake this activity in the marine park?
- (5) If not, why not?

**Hon SALLY TALBOT replied:**

I thank Hon Bruce Donaldson for considerable notice of this question. The minister has provided an answer in the following terms -

- (1) Yes. The Department of Environment and Conservation has liaised with the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council and the Western Rock Lobster Council regarding the extent of this activity in the marine park.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Yes. Lawful authority was granted to one fisherman on the proviso that the activity was currently being reviewed to determine the suitability of this activity in the marine park.
- (4) It is an offence under the Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002 to conduct this activity on Department of Environment and Conservation managed land without lawful authority. If any fisherman conducts this activity without lawful authority, appropriate action will be taken in line with the Department of Environment and Conservation's prosecutions policy.
- (5) Not applicable.