

WEST COAST DEMERSAL SCALEFISH — STATEMENT OF DETERMINATION

1159. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer to the minister's response to question without notice 1101 asked on 20 September 2023 that outlined that data reported in statutory returns by fishing tour operator licence holders is confidential information under section 250 of the Fish Resources Management Act 1994.

- (1) Can the minister provide an aggregated total and a percentage breakdown of the top 15 demersal species that were used in the allocation of quota as set out in the *West coast demersal finfish charter tag quota: statement of determination for 2023–24*?
- (2) If no, why not?

Hon SAMANTHA ROWE 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)–(2) The allocation of tags considered catch history based on the top 15 species in the west coast bioregion over the years 2017–18 to 2021–22. This accounts for approximately 94 per cent—97 452 fish—of the total catch of demersal scalefish by the charter sector during this period. Of the top 15 species, pink snapper accounted for 41.2 per cent, baldchin groper accounted for 18.4 per cent, breaksea cod accounted for 11.2 per cent and West Australian dhufish accounted for 9.7 per cent. The remainder of the catch consisted of a variety of species taken in relatively low quantities including emperor species 10.6 per cent, redfish species 3.7 per cent, blue morwong 1.7 per cent, foxfish 1.1 per cent, sea sweep 0.7 per cent, eightbar grouper 0.6 per cent, sergeant baker 0.3 per cent, blue-eye trevalla 0.3 per cent, hapuku 0.1 per cent and bass groper 0.1 per cent.