

WEST COAST DEMERSAL FISHERY

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

I refer to the recently announced government decision to reduce the total catch for demersal species on the west coast by 50 per cent.

- (1) Will uniform bag limits be applied throughout the entire west coast fishery and across all demersal fish species?
- (2) Will charter boat operators and professional licence holders be consulted prior to the imposition of bag limits or specified catch reductions?
- (3) Will the government provide compensation to those operators and licence holders affected by this decision?

Hon KYLE MCGINN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Fisheries.

- (1)–(3) Consultation has commenced with the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council, Recfishwest and Marine Tourism WA in respect of the need to reduce the catch of demersal species on the west coast bioregion to meet stock recovery requirements. No specific management proposals are currently under consideration. When the proposals have been developed, they will be released for public consultation. There is no specific mechanism or formal requirement to compensate when addressing the sustainability of Western Australian fish resources.