

WEST COAST DEMERSAL SCALEFISH RESOURCE

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

I refer to the minister's decision to reallocate 20 tonnes of demersal scalefish catch from the commercial sector to the recreational and fishing tour operator sectors within the west coast demersal scalefish resource.

- (1) How much of the 20-tonne reallocation was being fished by the commercial sector prior to it being surrendered through the voluntary fisheries adjustment scheme?
- (2) Can the minister confirm that the reallocation is temporary and that the 20 tonnes of catch will be restored to the commercial fishing sector?

**Hon SAMANTHA ROWE replied:**

On behalf of the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Fisheries, I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided by the Minister for Fisheries.

- (1) Prior to the voluntary fisheries adjustment scheme, the entire 20 tonnes were available to be fished by the commercial sector.
- (2) The 20 tonnes have been temporarily reallocated to the recreational, including charter, sector while in recovery. The access arrangements will be reviewed once the resource has fully recovered.