

WEST COAST DEMERSAL SCALEFISH RESOURCE

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

I refer to the west coast demersal scalefish resource management arrangements.

- (1) When did consultation commence with the charter fishing industry regarding the implementation of the management arrangements?
- (2) Has any consideration been given to delaying the implementation of the allowable catch quota for the charter and tourism fishing industry to allow sufficient time to consider the financial consequences for operators?
- (3) Has consideration been given to —
 - (a) an optional buyback of limited and minimal-use licences;
 - (b) a reduction in industry fees in line with catch allocation; or
 - (c) backdating the allocation of grants to the date of the announcement of the management arrangements?

Hon KYLE MCGINN replied:

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

- (1) Engagement with the charter sector has been ongoing since November 2021 when the updated stock assessment for the west coast demersal resource was released. The charter sector, through its representation on the west coast demersal harvest strategy working group, recommended the 50 per cent reduction in the recovery benchmark in 2021. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development undertook consultation with the charter sector, providing briefings and conducting workshops with fishing tour operator licence holders and Marine Tourism WA.
- (2) Delaying management action would pose an unacceptable risk to the west coast demersal scalefish resource and increase the risk of further management action being required into the future. DPIRD will continue to work with charter operators to pivot their businesses towards alternative fishing opportunities.
- (3) (a)–(c) Fishing tour operator licence holders that meet the eligibility requirements of the west coast charter diversification grants scheme will be able to receive reimbursement of costs associated with diversifying their business operations backdated to February 2023, of up to \$25 000. There are no fees associated with catch allocation for the charter sector.