

FISH RESOURCES MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS 1995

460. Hon RICK MAZZA to the minister representing the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer to recent changes to the Fish Resources Management Regulations 1995 that limit fishers to one of three combinations of catch limits —

- (a) 20 kilograms of fillets;
- (b) 10 kilograms of fillets or pieces of fish, plus one day's bag limit of whole fish; or
- (c) two days' bag limit of whole fish.

If, under the regulations, the fish frame is retained—that is, the head, tail, wings and skeleton from which the fillets are taken—then the combined weight of the fillets and the frame cannot exceed the 20 and 10 kilogram fillet limits for (a) and (b) respectively. Given that it is human nature for a fisher to maximise his or her catch, I ask —

- (1) Is the minister aware that the changes have resulted in fishers commonly discarding the fish frame and now taking only the fillets in order to remain within the regulations?
- (2) Is the minister aware of the health, nutritional and cultural value of this valuable food source?
- (3) What are the detrimental impacts to fish stocks and the marine environment of these limitations?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

The Department of Fisheries advises as follows —

- (1) The fisheries possession limits to which Hon Rick Mazza referred as “recently” introduced were introduced in October 2003. The 20 kilograms personal possession of fillets or pieces of fish equates to approximately 100 meals of fish. Since its introduction around 10 years ago, there has been a high level of compliance with this measure.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) This measure contributes to the sustainable management of the state's fish resources.