

COMMERCIAL FISH TRAP LICENCES — CARNARVON

**22. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Fisheries:**

- (1) Can the minister confirm whether there is a proposal to issue commercial fish trap licences in the Carnarvon region?
- (2) If yes to (1), is the proposal subject to a period of public consultation; and, if not, why not?
- (3) Has the minister made any commitment to issuing the licences?

**Hon KEN BASTON replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) In late 2015, commercial operators in the Gascoyne demersal scalefish managed fishery formally approached the Department of Fisheries with a proposal to trial the use of fish traps in the fishery. On 25 January 2016, the department released details of the proposed trial to Recfishwest and the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council as the peak bodies representing the recreational and commercial fishing sectors respectively for a 28-day consultation period as per agreed consultation protocols.
- (3) The Gascoyne demersal scalefish managed fishery is an existing quota-based fishery and there is no proposal to issue any additional licences, increase catch levels or expand the area of the fishery. Consideration is currently being given to allow existing licence holders to trial the use of fish traps as an alternative to existing line fishing methods. A decision on the use of fish traps in the fishery will be made following the consideration of issues raised during the consultation period.