

FISH STOCKS — QUOTAS

950. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Fisheries:

- (1) Will the minister please advise whether the government is giving consideration to selling the uncaught recreational quota of fish stocks to the commercial sector?
- (2) If yes to (1), has consideration been given to increasing the bag limit for recreational fishers?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

- (1) Both the commercial and recreational fishing sectors have expressed interest in the possibility of reallocation between the sectors of fishing rights held by the respective sector. The Department of Fisheries has, in the past, explored mechanisms that might be used to achieve this. However, there is no means under the Fish Resources Management Act 1994 by which the recreational catch share can be “sold” to the commercial sector, or vice versa. Unfished catch share remains in the water to benefit the fishery in future years. The question of allocation and reallocation of catch share between sectors has been considered in the drafting of the new aquatic resources management bill, and provisions have been included that will provide a range of options to allow reallocation of resources between sectors.
- (2) Although this question is not applicable, I note with specific reference to the west coast rock lobster resource that, in recent years, the recreational bag, boat, possession and pot usage limits have all been increased to improve the opportunity for recreational fishers to take the five per cent share of the WCRL resource allocated under integrated fisheries management.