

COCKBURN SOUND — FISH STOCK LOSSES

**1458. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Fisheries:**

My questions are further to questions without notice C1470 and C1471 that I asked on Tuesday regarding the fish kill event in Cockburn Sound.

- (1) Considering that the recent fish kill event occurred during the spawning season for pink snapper in Cockburn Sound and many hundreds of large mature fish of this species were lost, what effect will the loss of these fish have on future stocks?
- (2) Have any assessments been made in regard to the effects of the fish kill event on the future of blue swimmer crab stocks?

**Hon KEN BASTON replied:**

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

- (1) The event occurred past the peak of spawning activity in Cockburn Sound, which occurs over a four to five-month period and peaks around the November new moon event from 12 to 13 November. The full impact of this event on the pink snapper stock of the west coast will be assessed through the ongoing monitoring programs conducted by the Department of Fisheries.
- (2) Blue swimmer stock monitoring in Cockburn Sound is currently underway as part of the routine annual assessment program used to determine the management arrangements for this stock.