

HERRING STOCKS

167. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer to the Fisheries Research report 246 identifying that Australian herring stock has been subject to environmental and overfishing pressures.

- (1) What is the estimated tonnage of Western Australia's annual commercial herring catch?
- (2) Of the commercial herring catch, what percentage is used for human consumption?
- (3) What is the total value of Western Australia's commercial herring catch?
- (4) Is the minister aware that recreational fishing of herring has an estimated value to the economy of \$200 million?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

- (1) The reported commercial catch of herring in 2012, as published in the Department of Fisheries' "Status reports of the fisheries and aquatic resources of Western Australia 2012/13", is 163.3 tonnes.
- (2) Information provided to the department in statutory processor returns suggests that the majority—in the order of 60 to 70 per cent—is sold as bait, with the remainder sold for human consumption.
- (3) The total value was estimated at between \$250 000 and \$300 000 in 2012.
- (4) I am aware that the Recfishwest chief executive officer has made a statement to this effect.