

ROEBUCK BAY — RECREATIONAL FISHING

330. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Agriculture and Food representing the Minister for Fisheries:

With regard to fishing in Roebuck Bay near Broome, I ask:

- (a) has the Department of Fisheries conducted a survey of recreational fishing during the past two years, including the number of fishers, the methods of fishing, the locations fished (whether from the shore or by boat), the species caught and the times of the year during which fishing occurs:
 - (i) if yes to (a), will the Minister please table the findings; and
 - (ii) if no to (a), why not;
- (b) are commercial fishers required to report regularly to the Department of Fisheries about their activities, including the quantities and species caught, the methods used, the locations and times fished:
 - (i) if yes to (b), will the Minister please table these reports, including the quantities and species of fish caught; and
 - (ii) if no to (b), why not; and
- (c) does the Department of Fisheries receive regular reports relating to bycatch from commercial fishers operating in the bay:
 - (i) if yes to (c), will the Minister please table the results;
 - (ii) if yes to (c), what was the nature and quantity of bycatch in 2010, 2011 and 2012;
 - (iii) if yes to (c), did the bycatch include the endangered Snubfin Dolphin; and
 - (iv) if no to (c), why not?

Hon Ken Baston replied:

- (a) Yes
 - (i) The results of this survey are currently in production and will be released soon as Fisheries Research Report 249.
 - (ii) Not applicable.
- (b) Yes
 - (i) Aggregate data for each fishery is published in the State of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Report which is publicly available on the Department of Fisheries website, however for the Member's convenience, a copy of this publicly available report will be tabled. [See paper 943.]
 - (ii) Not applicable
- (c) Yes
 - (i) The Department of Fisheries receives mandatory monthly returns on which fishers should record the catch of all species and interactions with protected species.
 - (ii) Bycatch data for the region in question for 2009, 2012, and 2011 is contained on page 193 in the Status Reports of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Western Australia 2011-12 which is available on the Department of Fisheries website however for the Member's convenience, a copy of this publicly available report will be tabled. [See paper 943.]
 - (iii) For the period specified there was no recorded interactions with snubfin dolphins in Roebuck Bay.
 - (iv) Not applicable.