

COCKBURN SOUND — FISH STOCK LOSSES

**1441. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Fisheries:**

My questions are further to questions C1470 and C1471, which I asked yesterday regarding the fish kill event in Cockburn Sound. I have been advised by witnesses that between 12 noon and 12.30 pm on Saturday, 28 November 2015, two aircraft described as crop dusters—one described as yellow and appearing to have fire-fighting capacity—carried out dispersal operations above the fish kill event zone in Cockburn Sound, near the grain silos. Given that the information by witnesses suggests that the aircraft dispersed material onto the ocean surface in that area, can the minister advise —

- (1) Is the department aware of any spraying carried out in the area?
- (2) If yes to (1), was the aerial spraying connected to the fish kill event?
- (3) If yes to (2) —
  - (a) why;
  - (b) what material was dispersed; and
  - (c) what was the intended effect of the dispersed material?
- (4) If no to (2) —
  - (a) under what authority was the aerial spraying conducted;
  - (b) why;
  - (c) what material was dispersed; and
  - (d) what was the intended effect of the dispersed material?

**Hon KEN BASTON replied:**

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

I cannot get the information to the member today, but I will provide the response tomorrow.