

OCEANIC PINK SNAPPER STOCKS — GASCOYNE

Statement by Minister for Fisheries

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Fisheries) [12.14 pm]: Oceanic pink snapper stocks in the Gascoyne region, outside Shark Bay inner gulf, are on the road to recovery with management measures to boost stocks of the popular fish having proved successful. The Gascoyne demersal scalefish resource is five years into a 20-year recovery plan, after a 2017 scientific stock assessment found that oceanic pink snapper was at severe risk and that action was needed to ensure future sustainability. A recovery plan was developed by a working group comprising Recfishwest, Marine Tourism WA, the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to set out clear objectives, milestones and time frames to recover the resource by 2037.

The recent stock assessment provides a health check on the recovery and shows that oceanic pink snapper is on track to meet recovery milestones under current management measures. This success story is a very encouraging result after five years of recovery measures, and it demonstrates the importance of taking action to rebuild our fisheries to sustainable levels. We recently took action under the recovery plan for the west coast demersal scalefish resource from Augusta to Kalbarri and we are confident that these management changes will also see this fishery on the road to recovery. All commercial, charter and recreational fishers have a stake in supporting the recovery of these highly valued species and it is critical that we continue to work together to make sure we have plenty of fish for the future.