

**DEMERSAL GILLNET FISHING**

*Petition*

**HON NIGEL HALLETT (South West)** [10.02 am]: I present a petition containing 376 signatures couched in the following terms —

To the Honourable the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned residents of Western Australia oppose the total ban on demersal gillnet fishing between Bunbury and Albany, proposed by the Save Our Fish Stocks (SOFS) group in its petition, because:

- The information presented in the SOFS group's petition that the demersal gillnet fishery is causing 'severe depletion of fish stocks' is dishonest and contradicts the Department of Fisheries' advice that the fishery is sustainable and strictly managed;
- That the proposed ban would dramatically reduce the availability and affordability of local fish for those Western Australians who buy their seafood;
- The impact of recreational fishing on demersal scalefish stocks on the south coast (East of Black Point) is unknown because there is no recreational data available.

Your petitioners therefore respectfully request that the Legislative Council will:

- Disregard the SOFS petition and support the continuation of sustainable demersal gillnet fishing between Bunbury and Albany.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See paper 4144.]