

WESTERN ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY — WHALE INTERACTIONS

**420. Hon RICK MAZZA to the minister representing the Minister for Fisheries:**

I refer to question without notice 390 asked yesterday about the proposal by the Western Rock Lobster Council to reduce the number of pots in the water during the whale migration period from 1 April to 31 October each year to reduce whale interactions. Is the minister considering a 50 per cent reduction in pot numbers with a 200-pot maximum limit on all licences, which may unfairly impact fishers with more than 400 pots?

**Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:**

I thank the member for the question. The following information has been provided by the Minister for Fisheries.

The Minister for Fisheries is currently considering all recommendations made by the Western Rock Lobster Council to amend the west coast rock lobster management plan as a result of the COVID-19 package agreed to and announced on 12 March 2020.