

**FISH RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 1999**

*Second Reading*

Resumed from an earlier stage.

**HON GIZ WATSON** (North Metropolitan) [4.32 pm]: The final point I want to make is that as much as this Bill will allow Fisheries Western Australia to provide new types of special licences for fish tour operators, it is of interest to note that an agreement is being developed between Fisheries WA and the Department of Conservation and Land Management to ensure that existing licensing arrangements administered by CALM and the aquatic charter licence proposed in the Bill are managed and coordinated in a cooperative manner to ensure protection of the environment and other resource values and the sustainability of aquatic charter operators' opportunities.

It is important that additional restrictions be imposed on charter operators and that they be asked to meet much higher standards in carrying out their activities. I hope the minister can tell me whether the memorandum of understanding has been prepared and what additional requirements it will impose. The Greens (WA) support the Bill.

**HON HELEN HODGSON** (North Metropolitan) [4.34 pm]: I do not have the detailed knowledge of fishery matters displayed this afternoon by Hon Kim Chance and Hon Giz Watson, so I cannot make as significant a contribution to the debate as they did. However, I put on record that the Australian Democrats will support the Bill.

This is another example of the prime issue in the fisheries sector of resource sharing and the need to ensure that not only is the stock conserved for the future but also that interested sectors can access the stock. In this case, it is a recreational purpose, which is assisted and facilitated by the charter boat tourism companies. For that reason it is appropriate that they come under the licensing requirements of the Fish Resources Management Act.

Recently the Saturday morning *Hook, Line and Sinker* program on ABC 720 showed a photograph on its web site, which displayed the catch of five recreational fishers caught over six days in Onslow. I assume they were not charter boat tour operators. If they were, they would not have been allowed such a large haul. The photograph showed three loaded pallets of filleted frozen fish caught over six days. That excess cannot be allowed if we want to sustain a fishery that not only allows recreational access but also ensures that commercial fishers have a viable industry in the future.

Hon Kim Chance: Have you noticed the recent media reports of overfishing in Broome by up to 800 fish over the limit?

Hon HELEN HODGSON: Yes, I have. I am pleased that they are being exposed and that the public generally believes that those excesses should not be permitted. The industry and recreational fishers are gradually reaching an understanding that it is a limited resource that must be shared equitably and sustainably. The Australian Democrats support the Bill.

**HON M.J. CRIDDLE** (Agricultural - Minister for Transport) [4.36 pm]: I appreciate the Opposition's support. Some requests were made that should be taken up with the minister, which I understand Hon Kim Chance is happy to do. I understand that the memorandum of understanding to which Hon Giz Watson referred is underway and I will provide it to her later. On the basis that this is recognised as a necessary piece of legislation, I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time, proceeded through remaining stages without debate, and passed.