

WEST COAST DEMERSAL SCALEFISH RESOURCE

573. Hon COLIN de GRUSSA to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer to my question without notice 499 asked on 16 May 2023 regarding the west coast demersal scalefish resource management arrangements.

- (1) Has the minister been briefed by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development on communications it has received regarding the adverse impact on the mental health and wellbeing of members of the charter boat industry because of the implementation of the management arrangements?
- (2) Has DPIRD sought any advice from appropriate mental health professionals or agencies in respect of this issue?
- (3) Has DPIRD provided any guidance to charter operators on this issue; and, if so —
 - (a) what advice has been provided;
 - (b) how was this advice provided; and
 - (c) can the minister please table an example of this advice?

Hon KYLE MCGINN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided by the Minister for Regional Development.

- (1) The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development undertook consultation with charter operators in the west coast region on new management measures to support the recovery of the west coast demersal scalefish resource. DPIRD has briefed the minister on comments raised during this process, which included the mental health and wellbeing of industry members.
- (2)–(3) DPIRD has provided email advice to all fishing charter licence holders in the west coast region on specialised resources available to business owners and their employees for mental health support. Examples of mental health services that were provided, which included contact details, include Seafood Industry Australia’s mental health and wellbeing Stay Afloat program; the Mental Health Emergency Response Line; community mental health services; Lifeline; and Beyond Blue.

I table the attached information.

[See paper [2229](#).]