

WEST COAST DEMERSAL SCALEFISH RESOURCE — CHARTER OPERATORS

796. Hon JAMES HAYWARD to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer to the answer provided to question without notice 698 on 21 June 2023.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that charter fishing operators will be allowed to permit customers to catch only one demersal fish each day, regardless of how many tags they have available in their quota?
- (2) If yes to (1), can the minister explain how restricting charter operators to allow only one catch within the allocated tag system for each customer each day impacts on demersal fish stocks?
- (3) How would demersal fish stocks be impacted if charter fishing operators were allowed to permit customers to catch two demersal fish each day within the allocated tag system?
- (4) Can the minister confirm whether any leftovers from demersal fish caught and cooked on board will need to be jettisoned overboard before making landfall?

Hon KYLE MCGINN replied:

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

- (1) Recreational fishers on board a licensed charter boat are subject to the same daily bag limit for demersal scalefish that applies to all recreational fishers in the west coast region, provided the charter boat has tags on board. A daily bag limit of two demersal scalefish applies throughout the west coast region, other than at the Abrolhos Islands, where the daily bag limit is one.
- (2) The Abrolhos Islands is currently managed as a low-take, low-takeaway wilderness fishing experience, with a reduced possession limit of one demersal scalefish or five kilograms of fillets for each person, regardless of the length of stay.
- (3) A daily bag limit of two demersal scalefish at the Abrolhos Islands is inconsistent with the wilderness fishing policy at the Abrolhos Islands.
- (4) Under the catch-to-cook initiative, charter operators are permitted to catch only enough demersal scalefish necessary to provide a meal for those on board at the time, without the need to possess or use demersal scalefish tags. Any additional demersal scalefish should be taken and landed ashore only if the charter operator has tags on board.