

WEST COAST DEMERSAL SCALEFISH RESOURCE — CHARTER OPERATORS

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

I refer to the impact of demersal fishing changes on charter operators.

- (1) Can the minister confirm that daily catch limits for charter operators are still in place despite the implementation of the allocated tag system?
- (2) Will the minister allow charter operators to determine when they catch their yearly allocation of demersal fish to make their business operations viable?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?
- (4) Will charter operators be allowed to permit customers to take home any leftover fish that was cooked on board the charter boat?

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) Catch limits continue to apply for individual fishers participating in a licensed fishing tour.
- (2) Under the tag system, charter operators who possess tags can offer fishing tours all year round and are no longer subject to the same seasonal closures that apply to recreational boat fishers.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) No. The “catch to cook” option provides charter operators who do not have tags with an opportunity to fish for and consume demersal scalefish as part of a fishing tour. Only those charter operators that have tags on board will be able to land demersal scalefish ashore at the end of the tour and all quota species must have a tag attached.