

SHORE-BASED NET FISHING — LICENCES

4802. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries

In relation to shore based net fishing, I ask:

- (a) how many shore based net fishing licences are located between Mandurah and Bunbury, and Bunbury and Busselton;
- (b) what is the length and type of each net allowed to be used;
- (c) what fish are allowed to be caught, for example, whitebait, herring, whiting;
- (d) is there any restriction on the operating months/hours of the licence; and
- (e) how many people are allowed to operate each licence?

Mr W.R. MARMION replied:

- (a) There are 11 Fishing Boat Licence holders authorised to operate in the shore based South-West Coast Beach Bait Net Fishery (SWCBBNF). They can operate between Mandurah (Tims Thicket) and Busselton (Port Geographe Marina). There are 8 shore based South West Salmon Managed Fishery (SWSMF) authorisation holders that can operate between Mandurah and Busselton (Port Geographe Marina).
- (b) Both SWCBBNF and SWSMF operators are allowed to use seine nets from the beach. The SWCBBNF operators are restricted to a net length of 250 metres, whereas there is no limit on the length of net that can be used by SWSMF authorisation holders.
- (c) SWSMF authorisation holders can only take salmon. SWCBBNF operators can take all fish species other than those protected by other legislation (e.g. pilchards, salmon). In practice they target small pelagic fish; the main species taken is whitebait, although blue bait, whiting, mullet and herring are also taken.
- (d) There are some closures to netting around populated areas between Mandurah and Bunbury as defined in the Closed Waters Netting (Preston Beach to Dunsborough) 1990 Prohibition Notice No 443. Operators in both fisheries are prohibited from using beach seines in Geographe Bay (Port Geographe Marina to Cape Naturaliste).
- (e) The holder of a SWSMF authorisation must be present before any fishing activity can occur. There is no limit on the number of persons assisting in the fishing operation provided they hold a commercial fishing licence (CFL). Depending on the size of the school of fish between 4 and 6 persons will typically participate in the fishing operation. Each of the 11 SWCBBNF operators may use only one boat at a time and all persons engaged in the fishing operation must hold a CFL. Usually two people participate in a SWCBBNF fishing operation.