




Speech By
Robbie Katter

MEMBER FOR TRAEGER

Record of Proceedings, 10 October 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Gulf of Carpentaria, Fishing Ban

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (7.19 pm): I rise to speak again about the proposed net fishing ban in the gulf. I need to delineate that from the proposed ban for the reef. We have just jumped over to the gulf with no science attached. They have just made up these maps and said to these fishermen, a lot of whom have invested millions, 'Hey, we just drawn these lines on a map; they are from consultation.' When we asked, 'Who did you consult with?' we are told, 'Well, we can't tell you.' They have been told, 'You will be out of business.' We want to know where this is coming from. We know it is coming from the WWF, but we just want you to tell us.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr KATTER: Mayor Kyle Yanner. Thank you for talking about Mayor Kyle Yanner. I have spoken to Kyle. He wants it around his island. He does not want it up in Kowanyama. That has nothing to do with him and you can keep saying that all you want. I have reconciled with Kyle. I have spoken to him. You want to get these environmentalists to vote for you.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Direct your comments through the chair, please, member.

Mr KATTER: They want these environmentalists to vote for them. They want them to pander to them. I do not know where they are from. Some of them are based overseas. They have come up there and said, 'Look, we don't have any science, but we want you to ban this here now.' You are willing to go up to these Australians who work hard in the hot sun, are away from their families for three weeks and put everything on the line to produce for this country, 'You know what? Because we want to get some votes down here, we will just ban it.'

Hang on, what was the science behind this? The little bit of science was the king salmon. Please, minister, keep saying this because it just invalidates everything else you say. It is the most ridiculous thing to say that king salmon is at five per cent. Do we know why the minister is saying that? That is because no-one goes up to the Mitchell River where it is all caught and ask the commercial fishermen where they are taking the king salmon from. That is why the minister is saying it is five per cent. Anyone who wants to visit my Facebook can have a look at the king salmon boiling in the water. You can catch them off the beach. Saying it is five per cent makes the fisheries department and the minister look ridiculous. Keep saying it, please.

We are talking about dugong and turtle hunting. They have to report this. They do not want to catch all fish in their nets. It takes them two hours to get them out. They do everything possible not to catch these animals in their net. It is a big pain in the neck. You are trying to fillet fish to do that. You stay away from it.

This government wants us to import from Indonesia. I will show members this map. These are the Indonesian waters—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, will you table that?

Mr KATTER: I will table this map.

Tabled paper: Map depicting fishing zones in Torres Strait [1609](#).

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: But you still cannot use it as a prop, member.

Mr KATTER: If you look at that map, it shows a small handful of boats in the gulf. You will let them smash the waters up there right on our doorstep. We will import that into Coles and Woolworths. Dave Wright, the mackerel man in Cairns, can go broke. The Carroll brothers in Mareeba can go broke. That is alright. They have just spent \$750,000 on their shed and that is now for nothing. They can all go broke because the members want to win some votes there. The science is ridiculous. Recreational fishers are not safe here. The member for Cook needs to stand up and the minister for agriculture needs to stand down. If he will not stand up for fishermen, stand down.