

Question on Notice

No. 355

Asked on 23 March 2011

MS DARLING asked the Minister for Main Roads, Fisheries and Marine Infrastructure (MR WALLACE) -

QUESTION:

What is the Queensland fishing survey diary program and how will it benefit recreational and professional fishermen?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Sandgate for the question.

The 2010 Statewide Recreational Fishing Survey (SWRFS), launched in 2010, is collecting accurate information on the recreational fishing participation rate, the regions where people fish and the species people catch.

Approximately 3600 Queenslanders who fish recreationally are taking part in this 12 month survey which will finish in September 2011. This is the sixth Statewide survey of recreational fishing that Fisheries Queensland has undertaken. The results will improve our understanding of recreational fishing in Queensland, ensuring the sustainable management of our fisheries resources.

The survey will benefit all Queenslanders who fish, both commercially and recreationally. Good decisions need good data and the SWRFS is an internationally acclaimed technique for getting good estimates on recreational catch. It is particularly important that we have timely and accurate information on recreational fishing because approximately 700 000 Queenslanders fish recreationally which has a positive effect on the economy and social wellbeing of our society.

Recreational fishers also catch large numbers of some species so we need to get the balance right between providing a good recreational fishing experience and ensuring that fish stocks are healthy for our future generations.

Transparency is a key aspect of the SWRFS and recreational fishing peak stakeholder groups and research institutions in Queensland were consulted before the commencement of the survey. Feedback has been positive. We look forward to delivering the report in mid 2012 and remain committed to understanding recreational fishing in Queensland.