

Question on Notice

No. 635

Asked on 30 April

MR S ANDREW ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the new implementation of quota on Barramundi and King Salmon—
Will the Minister advise how this quota can be put into place when there has never been a stock assessment conducted on the overall bio-mass?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

As the Member is aware, quota is an established fisheries management tool within Queensland and Australian fisheries. Fisheries Queensland has commenced a stock assessment program for priority species under the *Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027*. A stock assessment for barramundi is nearing completion and a stock assessment for king threadfin salmon will commence shortly.

Stock assessments are among several accepted methods for setting quota. Other accepted methods are long term average catches or catches corresponding to periods of high catch rates. Such methods are used in other fisheries in Queensland, as well as nationally, and can be used in the interim until stock assessments are finalised. Harvest strategies will adjust catch limits over time, up and down, depending on the performance of the stock.