

Question on Notice

No. 823

Asked on 16 June 2021

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide a list of the sites used by Fisheries Queensland to determine the biomass of the East Coast Spanish Mackerel fishery as part of its latest modelling?

ANSWER:

The Spanish mackerel stock assessment covers the whole of the east coast Spanish mackerel fishery. The assessment data comes from a range of sites and data sources between Cape York Peninsula in Far North Queensland, extending south to Port Stephens in New South Wales. The sites cover offshore waters, reefs, shoals, bays and occasionally from ocean beaches and headlands.

Commercial harvest information was collated from 238 557 Queensland and New South Wales logbook records for the entire east coast Spanish mackerel fishery (Cape York Peninsula to Port Stephens).

The annual Spanish mackerel catch rate was calculated from 192 348 Queensland East Coast Spanish mackerel logbook records.

Charter harvest data was collated from 37 698 Queensland logbook records for the entire east coast Spanish mackerel fishery.

The recreational catch data is from state-wide recreational fishing surveys of fishers in Queensland and New South Wales comprised of random household telephone surveys to weight information on recreational Spanish mackerel catch. For this stock assessment, harvest from the Queensland east coast and New South Wales surveys were collated to obtain annual recreational harvest.

Boat ramp survey data from 1 488 interviews in 18 regions from Cooktown to the Gold Coast was used to determine the discard rate of Spanish mackerel fishery.

Length data is from 70 141 fish sampled annually from commercial fishers, recreational fishers and boat ramp surveys conducted between Cairns and the New South Wales border. Age data was obtained from 18 193 fish sourced from waters between Cape Tribulation and northern New South Wales.