

Question on Notice

No. 204

Asked on 16 March 2022

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister commit to allowing the data collected by Queensland Fisheries from the commercial sector, recreational sector, observer programs, processing houses and other data collection points, to be made available to the industry on demand so they can (a) test trigger points and (b) be aware of the status of individual fisheries?

ANSWER:

Fisheries Queensland collects information and data from numerous sources including commercial, recreational and charter fisheries to assist with the management and sustainability of fish stocks in Queensland. Fisheries Queensland shares information and data through several avenues in accordance with relevant policies and procedures, while maintaining confidentiality, protecting intellectual property and ensuring compliance with the *Information Privacy Act 2009*.

Aggregated commercial, recreational and charter catch and effort data, along with Queensland's Shark Control Program data, are publicly available and can be downloaded from QFish, the department's external data portal (<https://qfish.fisheries.qld.gov.au/>).

For reasons of confidentiality, only commercial and charter data associated with five or more boats can be provided publicly via QFish. Data is also provided at a minimum resolution of 30 x 30 nautical miles, to protect the intellectual property of fishers reporting at a finer spatial scale.

Commercial, charter and recreational fisheries biological data are also available from Fisheries Queensland upon request by email to fishdatacoordinator@daf.qld.gov.au and can be customised to be made fit for the intended purpose.

Information collected from the fisheries observer program from 2005–2012 is confidential and is generally not provided publicly as it contains detailed information relating to individual vessels and fishing trips. It should also be noted that the specific purpose of the observer program was to supply fisheries managers with timely and accurate data from commercial fishing vessels with respect to catch and effort, bycatch and to validate interactions with threatened, endangered, and protected species (TEPS). The use of the observer program data since then has been to reinforce parameter estimates in stock assessments.

Fisheries Queensland undertakes surveys of recreational catch and effort at 48 boat ramps across Queensland. Information on the survey and the survey results can be found on the department's web page (<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/fisheries/monitoring-research/monitoring-reporting/boat-ramp-survey-program>.)

Economic and social indicator data is also available through reports published on the department's web page. Economic data is available for the commercial and charter sectors for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 through a public facing dashboard.

The summary of outcomes from the 2019-2020 Statewide Recreational Fishing Survey (SRFS) can be found in the key results report available on the department's web page. This web page also links to the SRFS interactive dashboard, where the data from the 2000-2001, 2010-2011, 2013-2014 and the most recent survey in 2019-2022 can be found and copied.

Fisheries Queensland also provides data through publicly available reports, including stock assessments, Ecological Risk Assessments, Queensland Fisheries Summary Reports, Fishery Harvest Strategies and a variety of other datasets available at <https://www.data.qld.gov.au/organization/agriculture-and-fisheries> and through the eResearch Archives at <https://era.daf.qld.gov.au/>.

In addition to the stock assessments and Ecological Risk Assessments, information on the status of key stocks can be obtained through the national Status of Australian Fish Stock (SAFS). SAFS assesses the biological sustainability of a broad range of wild-caught fish stocks against a nationally agreed framework. Reports compiled through SAFS examine whether the abundance of fish and the level of harvest from the stock are sustainable.

The SAFS process is coordinated by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) and an advisory group that includes representatives from all States, the Commonwealth and Territories. All SAFS reports including periodic updates can be accessed through the SAFS website www.fish.gov.au.