

Question on Notice

No. 267

Asked on 29 March 2022

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Spanish mackerel working group— Will the Minister advise (a) have there been any allegations of data manipulation by employees of, or contractors for, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, and (b) if so, detail the allegations?

ANSWER:

I advise the member that I answered the question in the Legislative Assembly on 31 March 2022 and subsequently tabled a response that can be viewed via the hyperlink to the document in question at <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/tp/2022/5722T481-005F.pdf>.

- (a) The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is aware of one allegation of data manipulation.
- (b) The complaint was made by an industry stakeholder in respect to differences between the recreational harvest estimate in the 2016 Spanish mackerel stock assessment and the 2020 Spanish mackerel stock assessment. The industry stakeholder alleged this was as a result of stock assessment scientists deleting data.

I am advised the department found the allegation was not capable of being substantiated.

The differences in recreational catch data were because of several improvements made to the methodology and process, including additional, updated and better fishery information between the past and most recent stock assessments.