

Question on Notice

No. 1226

Asked on 11 October 2023

MR R KATTER asked the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments' recently announced 'phase out' of gillnet fishing in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and pursuit of the same in parts of the Gulf, and given this step is being taken in the name of protecting endangered species—

Will the Minister advise how many proven instances there have been of an endangered species being killed in the proposed net-free zones in the Gulf directly due to gillnet fishing in the last 10 years?

ANSWER:

During the ten-year period between 2012 - 2022, there were 953 interactions with threatened, endangered and protected species in the Gulf of Carpentaria inshore fishery, including 217 deaths and 54 injuries. These are reported numbers directly from inshore gillnet fishers in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The proposed gillnet-free zones in the Gulf of Carpentaria were compiled from submissions received by various sectors, including recreational and charter fishers, traditional owners and conservation groups. These zones were presented to the Future Fishing Taskforce and then the Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Fishery Working Group before being refined for public consultation in the current discussion paper.

Public consultation commenced on 12 October 2023 regarding the development of new gillnet-free zones in the Gulf of Carpentaria, and general fishery reforms proposed for the Gulf of Carpentaria inshore fishery as part of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027. Submissions will be carefully considered prior to final decisions being made by the Government.