

Question on notice no. 7

Portfolio question number: SQ25-000056

2024-25 Additional estimates

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

Senator Peter Whish-Wilson: asked the Australian Fisheries Management Authority on 25 February 2025—

- (1. How many tons of Orange Roughy did the FV Amaltal Explorer catch from the Australian Eastern Zone Orange Roughy fishery in 2024?
2. Noting that a recent fishery consultant report states that for the New Zealand owned factory freezer trawlers targeting Australian orange roughy, landing processed catch to Australian ports is "possible but almost never happens", what proportion of that catch was landed in Australia, and what proportion was landed in New Zealand?
3. How many Australians were employed as crew on the FV Amaltal Explorer while it fished for Australian Eastern Zone orange roughy in 2024?
4. What benefits did deeming the FV Amaltal Explorer as Australian for the purposes of accessing the Australian Eastern Zone orange roughy fishery deliver for the Australian community?
5. Is it correct that an acoustic survey of the fish stock conducted by the FV Amaltal Explorer as part of the justification for approving its deeming as an Australian vessel has previously been carried out by an Australian vessel, crewed by Australians?
6. How does awarding any of a 100% undercatch provision to a foreign vessel with no Australian crew, that may not land and does not process its catch in Australia, maximise the benefits of this fishery to the Australian community?

Answer —

Please find answer attached.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
Answers to Questions on Notice
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Portfolio

Hearing: Additional Estimates
Question No: SQ25-000056
Outcome: Agency
Division/Agency: Australian Fisheries Management Authority
Topic: Orange Roughy
Question Date: 05 March 2025
Question Type: Written

Senator Whish-Wilson asked:

1. How many tons of Orange Roughy did the FV *Amaltal Explorer* catch from the Australian Eastern Zone Orange Roughy fishery in 2024?
2. Noting that a recent fishery consultant report states that for the New Zealand owned factory freezer trawlers targeting Australian orange roughy, landing processed catch to Australian ports is “possible but almost never happens”, what proportion of that catch was landed in Australia, and what proportion was landed in New Zealand?
3. How many Australians were employed as crew on the FV *Amaltal Explorer* while it fished for Australian Eastern Zone orange roughy in 2024?
4. What benefits did deeming the FV *Amaltal Explorer* as Australian for the purposes of accessing the Australian Eastern Zone orange roughy fishery deliver for the Australian community?
5. Is it correct that an acoustic survey of the fish stock conducted by the FV *Amaltal Explorer* as part of the justification for approving its deeming as an Australian vessel has previously been carried out by an Australian vessel, crewed by Australians?
6. How does awarding any of a 100% undercatch provision to a foreign vessel with no Australian crew, that may not land and does not process its catch in Australia, maximise the benefits of this fishery to the Australian community?

Answer:

1. The *Amaltal Explorer* caught 999.5 tonnes (t) of Eastern Zone Orange Roughy in 2024.
2. All of the Eastern Zone Orange Roughy catch by the *Amaltal Explorer* in 2024 was landed in New Zealand. This is primarily due to the lack of dedicated high-volume fish unloading and cold storage facilities at the port of Hobart.
3. No Australians were employed as crew on the *Amaltal Explorer* in 2024.
4. Fishing for Orange Roughy requires specialised equipment which is only carried by a small number of Australian fishing boats.

Consequently, the catch of Eastern Zone Orange Roughy by domestic fishing boats (as a proportion of the annual TAC) is comparatively low (e.g. 18 per cent in 2024).

Talley's Australia owns a significant proportion of Eastern Zone Orange Roughy quota and leases additional quota from other Australian companies (as required) to meet its seasonal catch targets.

The in-kind contribution of Talley's Australia to the 2024 acoustic survey of Eastern Zone Orange Roughy (in terms of boat operating costs) was in the order of \$250,000. Other benefits include the purchase of fuel and provisions by the vessel when it berths in Hobart.

5. The *Amaltal Explorer* was selected to undertake the 2024 acoustic survey of Eastern Zone Orange Roughy through an open tender process run by the South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association.
6. The 100 per cent undercatch provision for Eastern Zone Orange Roughy provides flexibility for industry, including the Australian domestic fleet.