

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 24
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division
Topic: THE EXPERT PANEL ON THE DECLARED COMMERCIAL FISHING ACTIVITY
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 11 June 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Whish-Wilson asked:

In relation to the terms of reference linked here:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/41b182ca-9bfc-48b2-92a1-8a21f729f337/files/tor-expert-panel.pdf>

1. What percentage of the total budget available to the Expert Panel on the Declared Commercial Fishing Activity that is the subject of the Final (Small Pelagic Fishery) Declaration 2012 has been spent to date?
2. How much of this expenditure has been spent on in-situ studies in the SPF and how much has been on desktop analysis of existing information?
3. With respect to the Terms of Reference, and as part of the investigation, has the panel come to agreement on what the definition of "localised depletion of target species" means and what is that definition?
4. Has the panel considered how the recent call from Minister Joyce for the deregulation of AFMA management practices and for the industry itself to take on more responsibility for monitoring and reporting against fishery regulations will impact their findings and recommendations to Government? What would that impact be?

Answer:

1. To 31 May 2014, 29.94 per cent of the total budget available to the Expert Panel on a Declared Commercial Fishing Activity had been spent.
2. To 31 May 2014, none of the Expert Panel's budget had been spent on in-situ studies in the Small Pelagic Fishery, and a total of \$128,613 (GST inclusive) had been spent on desktop analyses (including literature and technical reviews).
3. As part of its assessment report, it is anticipated that the Expert Panel will outline the definition of "localised depletion" it has adopted. The report is due to the Environment Minister by 22 October 2014.
4. Minister Joyce's recent letter to the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, which outlines some of his expectations regarding regulatory reform opportunities for that Authority, does not form part of the Terms of Reference for the Expert Panel on a Declared Commercial Fishing Activity.