

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 347

**Division/Agency:** Sustainable Resource Management Division/Australian Fisheries Management Authority

**Topic:** Reporting to Parliamentary Secretary or the Minister

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator STERLE asked:**

1. Do you report to the Parliamentary Secretary or to the Minister?
2. How do you brief the Parl Sec or Minister?
3. Do your briefings go through the department to direct to the Parliamentary secretary or Minister?

**Answer:**

1. Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) reports to both the Minister for Agriculture and Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Minister for Agriculture.
2. AFMA prepares verbal and written briefing material for both the Minister for Agriculture and Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Minister for Agriculture.
3. The majority of AFMA briefing goes directly to the Minister for Agriculture and/or the Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Minister for Agriculture. However, briefing that requires additional departmental input will sometimes go through the department.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

**Agriculture**

**Question:** 348

**Division/Agency:** Sustainable Resource Management Division/Australian Fisheries Management Authority

**Topic:** Next review of fees and levies

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator STERLE asked:**

1. When is the next review of fees and levies due?
2. What consultation has AFMA conducted on the next review of fees and charges?
3. Has the Parliamentary secretary or Minister been briefed on those changes?
4. Will those fees and charges changes ultimately be required to be signed by the Parliamentary secretary or Minister?

**Answer:**

1. The 2013–14 levy regulations are due to be considered by the Executive Council on 12 December 2013. They are proposed to be collected in three instalments with payments due on 11 February, 8 April and 3 June 2014.
2. Australian Fisheries Management Authority will commence its consultation on the 2014–15 fees and charges (levies) in March 2014 with the Commonwealth Fisheries Association, industry associations and management advisory committees.
3. Yes.
4. No. The Governor General makes the levy regulations. The Parliamentary Secretary approved submission of the 2013-14 levy regulations to the Executive Council who approved them (on 12 December 2013) for submission to the Governor General in Council.

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**Question:** 349

**Division/Agency:** Sustainable Resource Management Division/Australian Fisheries Management Authority

**Topic:** Changes to Small Pelagic Fishery Total Allowable Catch

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator STERLE asked:**

Has there been any change to the small pelagic fishery total allowable catch? How does this differ to the TAC of 12 months ago?

**Answer:**

Yes.

Total allowable catch (TAC) limits are set in the Small Pelagic Fishery each season (1 May to 31 April) for the following fish stocks: Redbait East, Redbait West, Blue Mackerel East, Blue Mackerel West, Jack Mackerel East, Jack Mackerel West and Australian sardine East. There were changes in the TACs in the 2013–14 season for Jack Mackerel East and Australian Sardine East. The TAC for Jack Mackerel East decreased from 10 100 tonnes to 9800 tonnes and Australian Sardine East increased from 200 tonnes to 270 tonnes. All other TACs remained at the 2012–13 level.

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**Question:** 350

**Division/Agency:** Sustainable Resource Management Division/Australian Fisheries Management Authority

**Topic:** Commission of Audit

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator STERLE asked:**

What information has AFMA provided to the department for the commission of audit?

**Answer:**

Australian Fisheries Management Authority provided a brief description of its enabling legislation and its functions to the department for the commission of audit.