

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2014

Agriculture

Question: 46

Division/Agency: Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Topic: SA Marine Parks

Proof Hansard page: written

Senator EDWARDS asked:

1. Were you consulted or contacted by the South Australian government when they were formulating their Marine Parks policy?
2. Have any community groups contacted you with concerns about the South Australian marine parks and sanctuary zones which came into effect on 1 October 2014?
 - o If so, what was your response?
3. Do you have any modelling on what effect these changes will have on fish stocks in the affected areas?
 - o If so, please table the findings
4. The South Australian Rock Lobster Advisory Council has previously noted their concern that exports would be impacted as a result of the introduction of these zones. Does your organisation have any information which might support or refute this claim?

Answer:

1. The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) was not consulted by the South Australian government in the formulation of the South Australian Marine Parks policy. However, AFMA officials attended a number of meetings organised by the Department of the Environment where the introduction of these marine parks was outlined by South Australian officials.
2. No.
3. No.
4. No.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2014

Agriculture

Question: 47

Division/Agency: Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Topic: Fisheries and Climate Change

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator WHISH-WILSON asked:

1. Has AFMA seen a report titled 'An updated synthesis of the impacts of ocean acidification on marine biodiversity' that CSIRO collaborated on?
 - a. Does AFMA agree that rate of ocean acidification is likely to have a severe impact on marine species and ecosystems, with flow-on effects to various industries, communities and food security?
 - b. Does AFMA agree with findings that there may be a substantial reduction in fisheries catch potential under future ocean biogeochemical conditions, affecting the quantity, quality and predictability of future harvests with a potential loss to the world economy of more than US \$1 trillion annually by 2100?
 - c. What research has AFMA done in this area?
 - d. What research does AFMA have planned regarding Climate Change and fisheries in the next two years? What funding has been allocated to these activities?
 - e. What information or briefing has AFMA provided to the industry on climate change?

Answer:

1. The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) has recently seen the report titled 'An updated synthesis of the impacts of ocean acidification on marine biodiversity' which is a synthesis of the biodiversity implications of ocean acidification for marine and coastal systems, globally.
 - a. AFMA's focus is on Commonwealth managed fisheries and while AFMA hasn't examined the effects of acidification in Commonwealth waters in detail, it is aware that such changes in global climate can have impacts on ecosystems and fishery harvests.
 - b. See 1a.

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- c. AFMA has commissioned or co-invested in the following research in this area:
 - a. AFMA project 2013/0014 - Assessing the vulnerability of Torres Strait fisheries and supporting habitats to climate change, Welch and Johnson, 2013. This project was endorsed by the Torres Strait Scientific Advisory Committee in March 2013. The objective of the study was to determine the susceptibility of Torres Strait fisheries to climate change and the habitats that support them which will assist in informing future management decisions.
 - b. *FRDC Project No 2010/301 - Sponsorship for 2010 Australian Society for Fish Biology Conference and Symposium.* The theme for the symposium was 'climate change and aquatic environment – the future of fish and fisheries' a high priority area for the Australian Fisheries Management Forum and Commonwealth fisheries.
 - c. *FRDC Project No 2010/023 - El Nino South East: Quantitative testing of fisheries management arrangements under climate change using Atlantis, Beth Fulton, CSIRO.*
- d. AFMA has no research planned and no funding has been allocated.
- e. AFMA refers industry to CSIRO research on climate change including *Impacts of climate change on Australian marine life* and information contained in the climate change entry on the AFMA website.