

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2007

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question no: AFMA 01

Division/Agency: Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Topic: Licensing Indonesian Fishing Vessels

Hansard page: 46 (24/5/07)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—Has the Indonesian government requested the Australian government consider the issue of licensing Indonesian vessels?

Mr Hurry—I do not recall any discussions on it. I am reasonably sure the answer is no because I do not think they would have an interest in fishing in here. They have raised the issue about nationals fishing on our vessels and under some immigration arrangements at the moment there is Indonesian labour employed on Australian fishing vessels. But I have seen nothing to do with licensing Indonesian vessels to fish officially in our water. I can take that on notice and check for you to make sure, but I am fairly sure I am right.

Senator O'BRIEN—Thanks for that. I appreciate your taking it on notice.

Answer:

There were no Indonesian vessels licensed to operate in the Australian Fishing Zone in May 2007.

In order for this to occur, an application for a foreign fishing licence or application to deem a foreign boat as Australian must be made. There were no such applications pending in relation to Indonesian vessels.

There were no active foreign fishing licences nor any Indonesian vessels deemed to be an Australian boat operating in the Australian Fishing Zone in May 2007.

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question no: AFMA 02

Division/Agency: Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Topic: Geographic distribution of sightings of illegal foreign fishing vessels

Hansard page: 47 (24/05/07)

Senator O'BRIEN asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—So the department presents material on the geographic distribution?

Senator Abetz—Yes.

Senator O'BRIEN—So is there any reason the committee cannot see that material?

Senator Abetz—No. I think I offered that earlier as well. Yes, I am happy to. Especially in recent times the picture is looking a lot, lot better.

Answer:

Please refer to response provided to FF 01.

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Budget Estimates May 2007

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question no: AFMA 03

Division/Agency: Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Topic: Domestic compliance expenditure 2006-07

Hansard page: 79 (24/05/07)

Senator O'BRIEN asked:

Senator O'BRIEN asked: So you know there are substantial categories which have been incurred that you have not paid?

Mr R. Wilson—I know there are commitments still to come into that expenditure figure from 31 March.

Senator O'BRIEN—Historically, how much would that involve?

Mr R. Wilson—I would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

The budget for compliance for domestic fisheries for 2006-07 was \$4.412m.

Domestic compliance expenditure at 31 March 2007 was \$2.828m plus additional commitments of approximately \$0.292m, totalling approximately \$3.120m.

Final expenditure on compliance for domestic fisheries in 2006-07 was \$3.779m.

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question no: AFMA 04

Division/Agency: Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Topic: Orange roughy

Hansard page: 62 (24/05/07)

Senator Siewert asked:

Senator SIEWERT—So it is a year plus four months?

Dr Rayns—It is a year plus four months. We have had to add the additional four months in there. So for orange roughy east, for that 16-month period, it is 27 tonnes. For orange roughy south, it is 40 tonnes. For orange roughy west, it is 61 tonnes et cetera. They are there as by-catch levels—there are a number of others which I can provide to you—to enable fishing for other species but not allowing the targeting of orange roughy itself.

Answer:

2007 catch limits

Orange Roughy Zone Defined in SESSF Plan	2007 TAC (t)	Trigger (t)
East Coast Deepwater Trawl Sector	N/A	50t
North-Eastern Remote Zone	No quota SFR's granted for this zone	N/A – depth closure sufficient for management ¹
Eastern Zone	27	N/A – total applicable catch applies
Cascade Plateau Zone	483	N/A – total applicable catch applies
Southern Zone (incorporates any catch taken in Southern Remote Zone and the part of the South Tasman Rise Zone within the Australian EEZ)	40	N/A – total applicable catch applies
Western Zone	61	N/A – total applicable catch applies

¹ The North Eastern Remote Zone is not an area of the fishery where orange roughy are generally found because the area of waters is at the northern most extent of the range of the species. The objective of the Conservation Programme is to limit the take of orange roughy in all Zones except the Cascade Plateau and AFMA considers that the closure of waters below 700m provides adequate protection for the species in this area.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2007

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question no: AFMA 05

Division/Agency: Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Topic: Orange roughy

Hansard page: 62-63 (24/05/07)

Senator Siewert asked:

Senator SIEWERT—Okay. What do the others have?

Dr Rayns—There are a number of zones in the Great Australian Bight fishery, which you may be referring to. Again, they have a limit on those. We are currently reviewing them because the industry has come back with a type of proposal around those orange roughy areas. I would have to check. I might take this on notice because there is a bit of detail around here.

Senator SIEWERT—That is what I am after. We cannot pick it up from the conservation plan. We cannot pick up some of this detail.

Dr Rayns—I am very happy to provide it.

Senator SIEWERT—As I understand it, the only place you can fish at the moment for orange roughy is Cascades.

Dr Rayns—Cascades is the only target fishery, that is correct.

Senator SIEWERT—What I am looking for is the detail in each of the other management zones of what the by-catch or trigger is for orange roughy. We cannot pick it up from the plan.

Dr Rayns—I am very happy to provide that to you. That is no problem at all.

Answer:

Catch limits agreed by the Board of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) in May 2007

Orange Roughy Zone	2007 (t)	Trigger (t)
GAB Albany and Esperence zones	52t (bycatch)	N/A
GAB Far Western zone	N/A*	10t
GAB Western zone	N/A*	10t
GAB Central Western zone	N/A*	10t
GAB Central Eastern zone	N/A*	10t
GAB Eastern zone	N/A*	10t

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2007 catch limits

Orange Roughy Zone Defined in SESSF Plan	2007 TAC (t)	Trigger (t)
East Coast Deepwater Trawl Sector	N/A	50t
North-Eastern Remote Zone	No quota SFR's granted for this zone	N/A – depth closure sufficient for management ²
Eastern Zone	27	N/A – total allowable catch (TAC) applies
Cascade Plateau Zone	483	N/A – TAC applies
Southern Zone (incorporates any catch taken in Southern Remote Zone and the part of the South Tasman Rise Zone within the Australian EEZ)	40	N/A – TAC applies
Western Zone	61	N/A – TAC applies

¹ The North Eastern Remote Zone is not an area of the fishery where orange roughy are generally found because the area of waters is at the northern most extent of the range of the species. The objective of the Conservation Programme is to limit the take of orange roughy in all Zones except the Cascade Plateau and AFMA considers that the closure of waters below 700m provides adequate protection for the species in this area.

* No TACS in place.

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question no: AFMA 06

Division/Agency: Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Topic: Orange roughy

Hansard page: 63 (24/05/07)

Senator Siewert asked:

Senator SIEWERT—My next question is: if you can control by-catch, why aren't you doing it anyway? Secondly, has there been any close to date because the by-catch trigger has been reached?

Dr Rayns—No. Not to date. That has not happened to date. We do monitor those. If you require actual catches so far this year, those can be provided as well.

Senator SIEWERT—That would be really appreciated.

Answer:

Fishery	Zone	Whole Wt (kg)
Great Australian Bight Trawl Fishery	GAB – Central West	380
South East Trawl Fishery	East	12,090
South East Trawl Fishery	Cascade plateau	139,216
South East Trawl Fishery	South	20,372
South East Trawl Fishery	West	22,650

Catches for the current season, from 1 Jan 07 to 30 June 07

No catch of orange roughy has been recorded from any other zones in the Southern and Eastern Scalefish and Shark Fishery from January to June 2007.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question no: AFMA 07

Division/Agency: Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Topic: Reduction of Fishing Effort

Hansard page: 73 (23/05/07)

Senator O'BRIEN asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—Is there a fishery-by-fishery estimate of the reduction of effort arising from the buyback?

Mr Murphy—There have been small numbers that have changed, only very small numbers.

Mr Quinlivan—That is a question for AFMA.

Dr Rayns—The answer is: yes, we can provide that to you in terms of the changes in entitlement numbers. We will take that on notice.

Answer:

The reduction by fishery is provided in Attachment 1 of Question no: FF 06.

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Budget Estimates May 2007

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question no: AFMA 08

Division/Agency: Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Topic: AFMA funding

Hansard page: 77 (24/05/07)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—The number under expenditure under the Fisheries Administration Act is \$41.386 million. You are getting more than the amount on page 25. Is that how I should understand it?

Mr Quinlivan—I know there was some discussion on reconciling these numbers yesterday, but I was not present for all of it. I think it best that we take this on notice and make sure that we give you the correct answer. I presume it is the one that was described yesterday, but I am not sure of the detail.

Senator O'BRIEN—There have been a lot of numbers in these estimates. I am not going to venture an opinion at this stage, but it does appear that there is a \$2 million difference—I will not say discrepancy yet— between page 25 and page 91 for an amount which I think is supposed to be for the same thing? Am I wrong?

Dr Rayns—We take it on notice but it may well be that the \$2 million per annum AFMA is receiving under the data, science and compliance program is not included, but we will check that for you.

Senator O'BRIEN—I look forward to that explanation.

Mr Murphy—I suspect that the \$2 million is the \$2 million to which I referred earlier. It comes out of the \$53.298 million which goes to AFMA for the—

Senator O'BRIEN—Levies.

Mr Murphy—Yes, but we can confirm that.

Answer:

An additional \$2m is being provided to AFMA each year over three years (2006/07 to 2008/09) for 'improved science, data and compliance' as part of the *Securing our Fishing Future package*.

This funding is provided as part of the line item titled *Fishing Structural Adjustment Package* on page 25 of the 2007/08 Portfolio Budget Statements.

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Budget Estimates May 2007

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question no: AFMA 09

Division/Agency: Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Topic: Torres Strait Prawn Fishery

Hansard page: 80 (24/05/07)

Senator O'Brien asked:

Senator O'BRIEN—Perhaps we can get a breakdown of where the money comes from that makes up the numbers in that budget.

Mr Quinlivan—Yes, we can do that.

Answer:

The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) budget for the Torres Strait Prawn Fishery in 2007/08 is \$0.421m. The budget is funded as follows:

	\$m
Government funding	0.037
Levy subsidy	0.250
Recovered from industry	0.134
Total Budget	0.421

The funding of \$0.037m reflects components of compliance and observer costs in accordance with AFMA's Cost Recovery Impact Statement.

The levy subsidy of \$0.25m is allocated to AFMA as part of the line item *Torres Strait Prawn Fisheries* on page 25 of the 2007/08 Portfolio Budget Statements.