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Dear Mr Wilson

Thank you for your letter of 14 April 2021 outlining concerns related to the allocation of South Australian snapper resources.

The Allocation Policy 2011: Allocation of Access to Fisheries Resources Between Fishing Sectors (the Policy) was developed to guide the allocation of aquatic resources in management plans developed under the Fisheries Management Act 2007, and provides information for fishing sectors and the wider community about allocation of these resources. Completed in 2011, the first Management Plan for the South Australian Charter Boat Fishery provided the first formal allocation of shares of snapper and King George whiting; Commercial (81%), Recreational (18%) and Aboriginal Traditional (1%).

For the management plan, Charter Boat Fishery (CBF) catch based on the logbook returns for the fishery was considered as recreational catch and was used to further inform an allocation within the broader recreational fishing sector share. Data to inform this was based on the 2007/08 SA Recreational Fishing Survey and the SA Recreational CBF Report 2009. The allocations between the charter and recreational sectors also took into account the importance of equity between the CBF component and the broader recreational fishing sector allocation, and that the CBF has commercial interests in allocation (i.e. economic reliance on the resource).

After considering this information, the recreational sector component was allocated 10% for the charter sector and 8% for the recreational sector in the management plan, shares which have remained consistent in several other management plans subsequently prepared. The Policy guides the process for changing allocation for the sectors and this process has been included in the CBF, Marine Scalefish Fishery and other management plans, including recreational fishing. Any reallocation of shares should be made consistent with the information in the Policy and the individual management plans.

Once again, thank you for writing to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Hon David Basham MP

MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

25 / 5 / 2021