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Fish Now, Fish Forever

Hon. David Basham
Minister for Primary Industries and Resources
GPO Box 1671, ADELAIDE SA 5001
Minister.Basham@sa.gov.au

15 June 2021

Dear Minister,

RE: Your ref. eA194350; Allocation of South Australian Snapper resources

Thank you for your response to our enquiry regarding the allocation of Snapper in South Australian fisheries.

The response focuses on the distribution of the recreational sectors' allocation between the main user groups of recreational fishers and the Charter Boat sector but provides no information on the serious matter of resource allocation between the recreational sector and the commercial sector. Further, it provides no indication of how you intend to address the matter of significant inequity in the fishery and the use of recreational catch data, which was raised in our previous correspondence.

The matter of inequitable shares in the fishery can be addressed during the review of both the Management Plan for the South Australian Charter Boat Fishery due in August 2021, and the Marine Scalefish Fishery Management Plan due in 2023 and emphasise that the Minister also has the opportunity to trigger a review of allocations between sectors in the current reform of the commercial Marine Scalefish fishery.

The recent events in the Snapper fishery, where recreational fishers who traditionally accessed Snapper year-round (except for spawning closures), were prevented from fishing after only 4.5 weeks, represents profound policy failure and compels the Minister and PIRSA Fisheries to urgently redress the issue.

We request that this issue be referred directly to the Ministers Recreational Fishing Advisory Council (MRFAC) and the Charter Boat Fishery Management Advisory Council.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mick Wilson", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Mick Wilson
Chair, RecFish SA