

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 40
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division
Topic: COMMONWEALTH MARINE RESERVES - FISHING ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 29 October 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Singh asked:

To the Department's knowledge, prior to the scrapping of the five management plans, how many commercial fishing businesses across the country exited the industry or restructured or reduced their operations in the expectation of receiving the promised Fisheries Adjustment assistance from the Government?

- a. How many commercial fishing businesses exited the industry?
- b. Where are those businesses located?

Answer:

The Department is not aware of any commercial fishing businesses that exited the industry or restructured operations in anticipation of receiving assistance under the proposed Fisheries Adjustment Assistance Package.

The first stage of the former Fisheries Adjustment Assistance Package was proposed to provide 'Transitional Business Assistance', to assist fishers to restructure their fishing operations prior to the management plans coming into effect. Guidelines for eligibility for Transitional Business Assistance had not been finalised prior to the suspension of the Fisheries Adjustment Assistance Package.

It would have been premature for commercial fishing businesses to assume their eligibility and level of assistance that might have been provided under that programme.