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2101

10th May, 2004

The Honourable Ian MacDonald, MLA  
Minister for Department of Primary Industries  
Level 30 Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place  
Sydney, NSW, 2000

Dear Minister,

In a reply to a letter from to yourself dated 8<sup>th</sup> January 2004 concerning the commercial harvest of baitfish in NSW waters, the Director General of NSW Fisheries replied (reference MAF04/149), in part:

“A log book reporting system for permit holders has been implemented by NSW Fisheries to ensure that the commercial harvest from NSW waters is known. Fisheries harvesting in Commonwealth fisheries report directly to the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA). NSW Fisheries and AFMA work cooperatively to exchange this information”.

As NSW Fisheries either have details of the annual harvest of yellowtail scad and blue mackerel by Commonwealth commercial fishers in NSW waters, and have access to the annual harvest of these species in Commonwealth controlled waters, would it be possible to furnish me with these details?

As stated in the earlier letter, annual harvests of State commercial fishers is known as are estimates of the recreational sector. The information that is difficult to obtain is the harvest rates of the Commonwealth commercial fishers. AFMA have placed a trigger

catch level of 2,500 tonnes in Zone D of the Commonwealth Fishery Management Zone. The annual blue mackerel harvest in New Zealand is reportedly large, being between 5,600 and 14,900 tons. This raises a question of sustainability for these species, and those species higher in the food web.

Yours sincerely

Phillip Ingram  
President  
Anglers Action Group (Sydney Northside) Inc.