

**Estimates Committee 2016**  
**Questions Taken On Notice**

( 14/06/2016 to 23/06/2016 )

Date: 16/06/2016 Output: Resource and Product Integrity  
Sub Output: Fisheries  
Subject: Level of by-catch occurring

**From:** Mr Ken Vowles to Hon Gary Higgins  
Primary Industry & Fisheries

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**Question:** **5-3**  
Can you please provide the levels of by-catch that is occurring in regard to identified risk species such as mangrove jack, black jewfish or golden snapper?

**Answer:**  
Answered On: 07/07/2016

# ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

## Question Taken on Notice

**Date:** 16 June 2016 **Output:** 2.2

**Subject:** Levels of Bycatch occurring in identified risk species

**From:** Mr Ken Vowles MLA, Shadow Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries

**To:** The Hon Gary Higgins MLA, Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries

**Agency:** Primary Industry and Fisheries

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**Number:** 5.3

**Question:** Can you please provide the levels of bycatch that is occurring in regard to identified risk species such as mangrove jack black jewfish or golden snapper? (Being cognisant of 'commercial-in-confidence' provisions).

**Answer:** The two offshore snapper fisheries do not catch reef fish species identified as 'at risk'. The offshore snapper fisheries predominately target red snappers and goldband snapper and catches of other species, such as black jewfish, golden snapper and mangrove jack, are incidental and low-level. Scientific assessments show that the offshore stocks of black jewfish and golden snapper are biologically separate and distinct from the 'at risk' inshore stocks around the Darwin region that are currently overfished and subject to new management arrangements to rebuild stocks.

In terms of the offshore stocks, in 2014/15 golden snapper comprised 0.3% of the total catch in the offshore fisheries, black jewfish 0.5% and mangrove jack 0.8%. There are no sustainability concerns for these fish stocks.

The levels of bycatch are monitored and considered during independent third party assessments, such as those conducted by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment. Both offshore fisheries have been accredited as ecologically sustainable.