

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

**WEDNESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012**

**FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT**

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (11:21):** I move:

That the r egulation under the Fisheries Management Act 2007, entitle d General Variation, made on 27 September 2012 and laid on the t able of this h ouse on 16 October, be disallowed.

I will just go through what this variation of Fisheries Management (General) Regulations 2007 means. It means that we have regulation 8A inserted, which provides:

Possession of prescribed quantity of aquatic resource in prescribed circumstances.

(1) For the purposes of section 73(1) of the Act—

(a) a quantity specified in Schedule 7A is fixed in relation to the class of fish or other aquatic resource specified alongside that quantity; and

(b) The following circumstances, or any combination of the following circumstances, are prescribed:

(i) where the fish or other aquatic resource is—

(A) frozen; or

(B) stored in a freezer;

(ii) where the fish or other aquatic resource—

(A) has been pickled, salted, smoked, cooked or otherwise processed; or

(B) is otherwise stored,

in a manner designed to preserve the fish or other aquatic resource.

Then it talks about the offences under the act. Under schedule 7A—Prescribed quantities, the government has introduced a regulation of King George whiting:

(a) if the person has in his or her possession both fish and fillets of the fish: 36 fish or 3.5 kilograms of fillets of the fish

(b) in any other cases: 72 fish or 7 kilograms of fillets of the fish.

With regard to pipi, or Goolwa cockles, 1,200 pipi, and for razor fish, 100 fish. Why I am moving to have these regulations disallowed is that I believe we should just go to the weight limit amount because it is pretty hard to count fillets if they are in a frozen situation. I will stick to the seven kilograms of fin fish that the government has prescribed in the regulations.

On our side of the house we believe in possession limits but we believe they should be more generous. We believe that there should be a limit of 20 kilograms, which is similar to the Western Australian arrangements. I say that not only as the shadow minister for fisheries but as a regional member representing many people in my electorate who only get the opportunity to have an annual fishing holiday, as many people do right across the state, whether they are urban dwellers or whether they reside in the country.

For instance, I look at what is happening now in the country areas, and it is the culmination of the agricultural year with harvest under full swing. Some of the early farmers and croppers have already finished and they are obviously looking at going away on a few weeks' break in the near future. What usually happens is that people travel fair distances—and it does not have to be farmers, I am just using that as an example. They may want to travel to the West Coast or they may want to go to Ceduna—the whiting is pretty good catching up there. There is also—

**Mr Pengilly:** There's none over our way, don't come there! Caica is going to stuff it up completely.

**Mr PEDERICK:** The member for Finniss just reminded me of the fabulous fishing around Kangaroo Island.

**Mr Pengilly:** And the Fleurieu.

**Mr PEDERICK:** And the Fleurieu, which we both represent. With regard to Kangaroo Island, people get across on the *Island Seaway*. I was there the other day and encountered the stark reality of the distance—I guess you could almost say the isolation or the remoteness—when we had those lightning strikes, and I had a fire happening on my farm and I was trying to control it from Kingscote.

**Mr Pengilly:** They managed to get it out without you.

**Mr PEDERICK:** They did manage to get it out. The neighbours and everyone did very well and I appreciate that. They did a fantastic job and I must say my eight-year-old son was doing very well taking the calls. Be that as it may, for people who wish to go to Kangaroo Island, it is expensive, especially if you take a vehicle and then a boat or

a camper trailer. That is just the way it is—you have to get over there by either the *Island Seaway* or you can fly.

**Mr Pengilly:** What? On SeaLink, I would have thought.

**Mr PEDERICK:** SeaLink, sorry. The member for Finniss has just—

**Mr Pengilly:** The *Seaway* went out in 1995!

**Mr PEDERICK:** That shows how long since I have been on a boat to Kangaroo Island. Thank you, member for Finniss. I have also been on the *Troubridge*, Michael, and that is going back many years. What I am saying is that it is not cheap to get to the Far West Coast, Yorke Peninsula (where there is some very good recreational fishing around there as well) or, for instance, Kangaroo Island. People mainly have the opportunity to go away on one decent trip a year and, certainly, I do not think the government regulations that bring the limits down to seven kilos of whiting is acceptable.

The amount is just too low. These limits came about because we were the only state in Australia not to have possession limits. There were possession limits across the other states and so it enticed people to come to South Australia, and there has been a whole lot of discussion about people fishing and catching thousands of fillets and them taking them away, whether it is to the Eastern States or elsewhere. A lot of that is anecdotal evidence, of course, but it certainly upsets commercial fishermen. That is why we have said that perhaps we need to even up the way possession limits are managed in this country and we agreed that we do need a possession limit but we believe that 20 kilos of fish—which could be something like 160 whiting—could be quite sustainable.

We are not talking about people having the opportunity to take thousands of whiting because that is obviously a commercial rate of fish, and we want to see that controlled. Obviously there are going to be issues with policing this. I understand that the method of policing is similar to Western Australia where, if there is enough suspicion involved, a warrant is sought to inspect the person's premises, and they obviously need to be very suspicious that someone has a freezer with many fillets in it.

It certainly raised a lot of discussion during the months of debate that has been going on about recreational fishing possession limits. We have to understand that there are hundreds of thousands of people in South Australia that love the opportunity to go for a fish. As I indicated, there are many people who only have the opportunity to go fishing once a year and we want to see those people have the opportunity to catch a decent feed of fish that they can store for a few months and enjoy the fruits of their recreational fishing.

I am afraid that such a low limit of seven kilograms makes it completely unworkable. That does not allow people to fully utilise their holiday. If they have to stick rigidly by the rules, we could see people taking tourism dollars out of regional communities, which is a disaster. They will be shortening their trips. They might only go for a week or 10 days instead of maybe three or four weeks and that is going to be a disaster for the incomes of regional communities.

We have already seen the debate going on around marine parks and the chaos and uncertainty that has already caused in regional communities, and we do not any more. We do not need the marine parks fiasco, quite frankly, but it is going to be imposed on us. I think the people of South Australia will make their fair judgement in March 2014 regarding that debate. What we need to do in this state is foster all our communities and, especially in this case, our regional communities. People want to go away. They want to spend a few weeks away with their mates or their family and just catch a decent amount of fish. It is pretty obvious.

It is not just the people travelling over there that are impacted by this, it is also the accommodation at the motels and caravan parks. The local businesses will also be impacted, such as the local Foodlands or the local small shops, whether they be at Ardrossan, Ceduna, Port Lincoln, Port Broughton or anywhere in this state. People also like travelling down to the South-East to Beachport.

**Mr Pengilly:** Where's that?

**Mr PEDERICK:** Do you have to go on the *Island Seaway*? I think the many hundreds of thousands of people in this state that enjoy recreational fishing have a right to book a decent holiday, travel on this holiday and take their boat or their camper, or take both if they have a couple of vehicles and can get away. Some people can put the boat on top of the vehicle or the camper trailer. They should at least have the opportunity to fully enjoy and utilise their time off, which for a lot of people is the only opportunity that they have for a break.

That is why I am moving to disallow the regulations that were placed on the table by the government. It is not the simple fact that this is just about fishing as it is. As I have explained, it is about supporting regional areas and regional communities, and it is about giving everyone a fair go.