

FISHERIES — WESTERN SCHOOL PRAWNS RESTOCKING PROGRAM —  
SWAN AND CANNING RIVERS

5276. Mr D.J. Kelly to the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer to the the release of Western School Prawns into the Swan and Canning Rivers as part of a restocking program and ask:

- (a) how many prawns have survived; and
- (b) is there a measurable increase in the school prawn population in the Swan and Canning Rivers?

**Mr J.M. Francis replied:**

The Department of Fisheries advises:

- (a)–(b) This Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund project is a collaboration between Challenger Institute of Technology, the Swan River Trust, Recfishwest, the WA Fish Foundation and Murdoch University. Murdoch University is undertaking monitoring of the prawns, the results of which are yet to be compiled. There are early indications of an increase in prawn numbers, an increase in recreational fishing for school prawns and an increase in catch rates.