

SHARK DRUM LINE PROGRAM

61. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the Minister for Fisheries:

- (1) Please list all the types of tags that have been attached to sharks that have been caught on drum lines and released since the current shark strategy began, including whether the tags are simple identity tags or acoustic transmitter tags.
- (2) In relation to (1), how many of each type of tag have been attached to the released sharks?
- (3) Will the government monitor the survival rate of the released sharks in the days following their release?
- (4) If yes to (3), what method will the government use to do this?
- (5) If no to (4), why not?
- (6) Does the exemption granted by the federal environment minister extend to releasing sharks less than three metres long in a state of serious injury or dying?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) In the metropolitan area, three sharks have been tagged with acoustic tags. One was both internally and externally tagged, and two were only internally tagged. Twenty-five sharks have been tagged with conventional tags, which are plastic numerically marked fin tags attached to the dorsal fin. Specialist training on tagging of sharks will be provided to the south west contractor by Department of Fisheries personnel commencing on 20 February 2014.
- (2) See answer to (1).
- (3) Yes, if possible.
- (4) The acoustically tagged sharks will be monitored if they trigger a satellite-linked receiver buoy.
- (5) The conventional tags can be monitored only on recapture. If any of the released sharks are recaptured, that information will be recorded.
- (6) The exemption provided by the federal environment minister is for the setting of up to 72 baited drum lines, each with a single size 25/0 hook, approximately, in Western Australian state waters. The white, tiger and bull sharks three metres or more in length will be destroyed and those under three metres will be released.