

FISHERIES — SHARK MONITORING NETWORK — RECEIVER MAINTENANCE

3328. Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson to the Minister for Fisheries:

- (1) How many data-recording acoustic receivers (VR2W) in the shark monitoring network were serviced in each of:
 - (a) 2009–10;
 - (b) 2010–11;
 - (c) 2011–12;
 - (d) 2012–13;
 - (e) 2013–14; and
 - (f) 2014–15?
- (2) How many data-recording acoustic receivers (VR2W) in the shark monitoring network will be serviced in each of:
 - (a) 2015–16;
 - (b) 2016–17; and
 - (c) 2017–18?
- (3) Will the servicing undertaken from 1 July 2015 change compared to that done previously and, if yes, how will it change?
- (4) How many data-recording acoustic receivers (VR2W) are there in the shark monitoring network?

Hon Ken Baston replied:

- (1) The numbers shown below are for the Shark Monitoring Network only, and do not include VR2 receivers in other arrays deployed by the Department of Fisheries' research division, the Ocean Tracking Network and the Australian Animal Tracking and Monitoring System.
 - (a) 19
 - (b) 19
 - (c) 19
 - (d) 142
 - (e) 146
 - (f) 158
- (2) The Shark Monitoring Network (SMN) was established as part of a research project to get a better understanding of shark movement patterns in WA. The SMN has provided a significant level of data on shark movements that is currently being analysed and will be released as a report by the end of the year. For tracking movements of sharks, the SMN includes (i) arrays of seabed receivers that log information which is retrieved at regular intervals (known as VR2 receivers) and (ii) real-time surface receivers that send messages via satellite (known as VR4 receivers). The VR4 receivers have also acted as a real-time detection tool for tagged sharks at key locations along the Perth and South-West coasts and at Albany thereby providing a component of the shark hazard mitigation strategies adopted in WA. The VR4 receivers will continue to be serviced as part of the Department of Fisheries maintenance program. Arrangements for the VR2 receivers will be reviewed now that the data collection component of the research is complete.
- (3) Refer to (2) above.
- (4) 158