

FISHERIES — SHARK INCIDENT — WYLIE BAY

2264. Hon Lynn MacLaren to the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer to the response to a shark bite incident at Wylie Bay, Esperance on 2 October 2014, and I ask:

- (a) for each shark, what was the time of day when the shark was first observed to have been caught on the drum lines;
- (b) for each shark, how long were they observed to be visibly alive on the drum lines before they were observed to be dead and their bodies were recovered;
- (c) at what time was it observed that the first shark captured had been fitted with an external acoustic tag;
- (d) for each shark, what steps, if any, were taken to release the shark before it died; and
- (e) does the Government consider that the treatment of both sharks was humane?

Hon Ken Baston replied:

- (a) The first shark was observed to have been caught at 1:55pm. The second shark was first observed to be on the line at 6:00pm.
- (b) Not available. The time either shark was observed to have expired on the line is not recorded.
- (c) There was no external acoustic tag observed. The Department of Fisheries was not aware it was a tagged shark until the internal acoustic tag was recovered during the subsequent examination of the shark carcasses.
- (d) No steps were taken to release the sharks.
- (e) The treatment of the sharks was considered appropriate in the circumstances.