

SHARK DRUM LINE PROGRAM — RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENCE FEES

76. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Fisheries:

Revenue from recreational fishing licences is used for research, administration and the management of recreational fishing interests. Can the minister confirm that no funds from recreational fishing licence fees are being used to fund the shark mitigation program?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

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

The Department of Fisheries currently receives approximately \$7.2 million a year from recreational fishing licence fees and it is deposited into the recreational fishing account. Some of it goes to Recfishwest; the rest goes directly into recreational fishing activities. But it actually costs the state around \$22.76 million a year to cover the cost of managing recreational fishing, which includes everything from research to compliance and management. On that basis, I can confirm that no funds are being allocated from the recreational fishing account to fund the shark mitigation program. The cost of the drum line program will be funded by a separate appropriation from Treasury.