



Senator Linda Reynolds CSC
Chair
Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Reynolds

On 8 February 2016, I appeared as a witness before the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee Estimates Hearing.

During the hearing Senator Seiwert said in relation to the use of drum lines as part of the Queensland Shark Control Program

“So these drum lines that are being monitored can still be traditional drum lines. If they are only monitored on a fairly irregular basis, you still get bycatch and the targeted species is killed?”

In response I said

“They are generally monitored all the time. The drum line identifies when an animal has been captured in the drum line so that the contractors who manage the drum lines for the Queensland government can then go and check to see if it is a targeted species or not, and if not they will release the animal.”

I wish to correct this answer. The drum lines used in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park as part of the Queensland Shark Control Program are traditional drum lines. They are monitored by contractors every two days weather permitting, but do not electronically notify when an animal is caught. Based on Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries records (available on their website), 65% of non-target species are released alive. The remainder of my answer to the question, given at the Hearing, is correct.

I apologise for the error in my answer and trust this further information will be of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Bruce Elliot
General Manager
Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use

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