

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment and Energy portfolio**

**Question No:** 105  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Program:** Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)  
**Topic:** Whale Deaths  
**Hansard Page:** n/a  
**Question Date:** 24 October 2016  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Whish-Wilson, Peter asked:**

How many whales and what species of whales have been caught or killed in shark nets in Australia each year over the last decade? What is the breakdown by geographic region?

**Answer:**

Bather protection programs, including the use of shark nets in coastal waters, are the responsibility of relevant State and Territory Governments.

The Australian Government, with the cooperation of State and Territory agencies, collates data on entanglements as part of Australia's annual National Progress Report to the International Whaling Commission.

These National Progress Reports indicate that in Australian waters between 2006 and 2015 there have been 230 reported incidents of whales or dolphins entangled in shark control nets. Ten species of cetacean are included in these reports with the most frequently reported species being common dolphin, bottle-nosed dolphin and humpback whale.

Almost 80 per cent of the incidents reported occurred in Queensland, and nearly 13 per cent in NSW. The remainder were from WA and SA waters, or the location was not recorded.