

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

Question No: 157
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Environment Standards Division (ESD)
Topic: Shark Nets Monitoring
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Question Date: 24 October 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Whish-Wilson, Peter asked:

What kind of monitoring will be in place to record the numbers of bycatch (both dead and released) and will the data be released in a timely manner?

Answer:

The trial involves an observer program to monitor the trial operations to quantify and maximise the accuracy of information arising from captures. As specified in the *Management Plan for the NSW North Coast Shark Meshing Trial November 2016*:

- The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) will provide an appropriately qualified and trained observer for net inspections (i.e. setting, checking and/or retrieving a net) during the trial.
- Nets must be inspected no earlier than 4 hours and within 24 hours of the previous inspection, weather permitting.
- The observer will identify and record all fauna taken in net catches. Data on catches will be reported at least monthly on the NSW DPI website. The report will summarise the date, net location and times when the nets were deployed per week and the date and times when the nets were inspected and include the total number of individuals and type of fauna species captured and their status at the time of the inspection.
- An analysis of the full set of trial results, its outcomes in achieving the objectives of the trial and any recommendations arising from that analysis will be made available in the final report before the end of the trial and published on the NSW DPI website.