

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
17 October 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION (CSIRO)

TOPIC: Great White Sharks

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 17 October 2012, page 13)

QUESTION No.: SI-7

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Do you have funding specifically for this or is this an area that has been targeted for potential funding, given the controversy over the potential culling of great white sharks?

Dr Clark: You are going specifically to the great white sharks. We do tag more than one species. I would be happy to provide that information on notice.

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Thank you. -----

ANSWER

For detail on the CSIRO's white shark research refer to SI 6 'Shark tagging'.

Funding for CSIRO's white shark research

The CSIRO's white shark research portfolio has strategic long-term objectives, but on-ground research varies from year to year depending on external funding.

The CSIRO is currently working on a project funded by the Department of Fisheries Western Australia to report on the impacts of fisheries and marine management on Australian white shark population dynamics. This includes the current state of knowledge of the Australia population of white sharks and how this may have been impacted by fisheries and other marine management activities. This work was commissioned mid 2012; with the final deliverable expected by the end of 2012. The research is part of the response of the West Australian Government to the recent series of fatal attacks in WA.

The funding for this project is

CSIRO Appropriation	nil
External	\$16,416
Total	\$16,416

CSIRO has two other active white shark projects

1. 2012-13 Juvenile white shark research budget:

CSIRO Appropriation	\$57,649
External	\$25,000
Total	\$82,649

2. 2012-13 Data analyses development budget

An internally funded data analyses and model developmental project is underway to assimilate acoustic and satellite tagging data to develop spatial dynamics models and to develop analytical methods to estimate population status from these and related data.

CSIRO Appropriation	\$45,387
External	nil
Total	\$45,387