

FISHERIES — ILLEGAL FISHING

4862. Mr D.J. Kelly to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer to the reports received by the Department of Fisheries (FishWatch), specifically on Illegal Fishing:

- (a) how many Fisheries Officers are employed to respond to the reports of illegal fishing;
- (b) how many reports on illegal fishing were received by FishWatch during the financial year 2013-14;
- (c) how many reports on illegal fishing were received by FishWatch during the financial year 2014-15;
- (d) how many of these reports were attended by a Fisheries Officer between during the financial year 2013-14;
- (e) how many of these reports were attended by a Fisheries Officer between during the financial year 2014-15;
- (f) how many of these reports resulted in persecution by the Department of Fisheries during the financial year 2013-14; and
- (g) how many of these reports resulted in persecution by the Department of Fisheries during the financial year 2014-15?

Dr K.D. Hames replied:

- (a) FishWatch calls are directed to nominated Fisheries officers within each Region. These officers will assess the quality and timeliness of the information provided and respond as considered appropriate in each circumstance. The Department of Fisheries employs 114 Fisheries Officers statewide each capable of responding to FishWatch calls. Although FishWatch does provide a facility for reporting alleged offences as they occur allowing for an immediate response, the information received is primarily used for planning purposes and to add value to existing intelligence holdings.
 - (b) 913
 - (c) 1156
 - (d) 129
 - (e) 206
 - (f)–(g) The Department of Fisheries does not routinely collate information on the link between FishWatch calls and prosecutions.
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