

SHARK MONITORING NETWORK

602. Hon RICK MAZZA to the minister representing the Minister for Fisheries:

The shark monitoring network was a seven-year research project established in 2009 to monitor the movements of tagged white sharks when they came close to popular beaches. The project recorded 180 000 shark detections from 25 satellite-linked receivers over the life of the project.

- (1) What was the total number of sharks tagged and how many sharks were tagged in each year of the project?
- (2) Is shark tagging still practised?
- (3) If no to (2), when was tagging discontinued and why?
- (4) Did the data from the recordings indicate any particular pattern in shark movements?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1) A total of 230 sharks were tagged in Western Australian waters as part of the shark monitoring network project. According to the information I have here, the tagging started in 2007.

I seek leave to have the detail of the tagging information incorporated into *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The following material was incorporated —

Year	White sharks	Tiger sharks	Bronze whaler sharks	Total
2007	1	0	0	1
2008	0	1	0	1
2009	6	0	0	6
2010	5	1	0	6
2011	0	0	0	0
2012	8	6	22	36
2013	11	17	12	40
2014	19	12	15	46
2015	8	61	11	80
2016	4	4	1	9
2017	3	2	0	5

- (2) Yes; tagging is still being practised.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) The shark monitoring network was implemented to collect information about white shark movements off our coast. The results, released in April 2016 and available on the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development website, show that white sharks can exhibit rapid, extensive movements around the Western Australian coast, with some seasonality in their abundance off the metropolitan coast. As their movements are mostly uncoordinated, this limits the general predictions of when human encounters with this species could be likely.