

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES — PRAWN RESTOCKING PROGRAM

3303. Mr D.J. Kelly to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries:

Following the release of Western School Prawns into the Swan and Canning River as part of a restocking program, how many prawns have survived and is there a measurable increase in the school prawn population in the Swan and Canning Rivers?

Dr K.D. Hames replied:

The Swan and Canning River prawn restocking project aims to restock and monitor the release of Western School Prawns and engage the community and encourage families onto the rivers.

The project has been undertaken in collaboration with the Western Australian Fish Foundation, Swan River Trust, Challenger Institute of Technology, Murdoch University and supported by Recfishwest and the Department of Fisheries.

The project has been made possible through funding from recreational fishing licence fees and a contribution from Commonwealth funding.

To date, approximately 885 000 two week old prawns have been released at various locations on the Swan and Canning rivers.

Swan River Trust and Murdoch University are undertaking monitoring with a report on the project due in 2016. Sampling undertaken to date indicates that there are a higher densities of prawns in monitoring locations and anecdotal evidence suggests there has been an increase in recreational prawning activity.