

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice
Environment and Energy portfolio

Question No: 78
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Program: Science Division (SD)
Topic: Quantum of funding for shark research
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Question Date: 22 May 2017
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Whish-Wilson asked:

Senator WHISH-WILSON: I want to ask for a point of clarification on Senator Lines's questions. Can you give us, perhaps on notice, what the quantum of funding has been overall for research specifically around shark mitigation and the tagging programs?

Mr Oxley: We certainly can attempt to.

Senator WHISH-WILSON: If you could. I am trying to get an idea of how much we have invested in the public good.

Mr Richardson: I want to clarify the question. Are we talking about oceanic sharks?

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Specifically the white sharks. I know you tag lots of other sharks, but white sharks and bull sharks.

Mr Richardson: Okay.

Answer:

CSIRO is currently conducting a research project - '*A national assessment of population status of white sharks*', under the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program (NESP) Marine Biodiversity Hub. The quantum of NESP funding that has been allocated to this specific white shark population project is \$764,000.

In addition, CSIRO, through the NESP Marine Biodiversity Hub, recently completed a project reviewing the '*Status of human-shark interactions and initiatives to mitigate shark risk in Australia*'. The quantum of NESP funding that was allocated to this specific project was \$50,000.

Further information on these projects is available at <https://www.nespmarine.edu.au/>