

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

Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment and Energy portfolio**

**Question No:** 96  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Program:** Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)  
**Topic:** Tasmanian Kelp Forests  
**Hansard Page:** n/a  
**Question Date:** 24 October 2016  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Whish-Wilson, Peter asked:**

Can the department confirm if it is true 95% of Tasmania's listed kelp forest community has gone (over the past 80 years)?

**Answer:**

This estimate of decline reflects that outlined in a scientific article published in 2011 in a peer reviewed journal the *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology*. (Please refer to the reference below.)

The Department was not involved in this study and therefore cannot confirm its validity. However the results of this study were drawn upon as part of the EPBC Act listing assessment for this ecological community.

Johnson, C.R., Banks, S.C., Barrett, N.S., Cazassus, F., Dunstan, P.K., Edgar, G.J., Frusher, S.D., Gardner, C., Haddon, M., Helidoniotis, F. and Hill, K.L., 2011. Climate change cascades: Shifts in oceanography, species' ranges and subtidal marine community dynamics in eastern Tasmania. *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology*, 400(1), pp.17-32.