

**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.