

## Question on Notice

No. 1207

Asked on 27 October 2022

**MR M BERKMAN** ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES AND MINISTER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (HON M FURNER)—

### QUESTION:

With reference to the Queensland Shark Control Program— Will the Minister advise how many animals have been caught within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park since 1 January 2020, and of those (a) how many have been released alive, (b) how many were bull sharks, tiger sharks, white sharks, non-target sharks and other species respectively and (c) how many that have been tagged and released were still recorded as moving six months later?

### ANSWER:

Drumlines were re-deployed in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park in February 2020, after a revised permit was issued, considering the Administrative Appeals Tribunal decision and work health and safety requirements. Shark contractors operating in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park now check drumlines daily up to 260 days per year, weather permitting. They also tag, relocate and release tiger, bull, and white sharks alive, where possible and safe to do so, as required under the permit.

I can advise that from 1 January 2020 to 27 October 2022 753 animals were caught in the Shark Control Program in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, including 163 bull sharks, 203 tiger sharks, 358 other sharks and 29 other species. Of those, 278 were released alive, including 39 bull sharks, 124 tiger sharks, 92 other sharks and 23 other species (see Table 1).

Table One: Shark Control Program catches in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (1 January 2020 to 27 October 2022).

<b>Species/Species Group</b>	<b>Number Released Alive</b>	<b>Number Deceased</b>	<b>Total Number Caught</b>
Bull Shark	39	124	163
Tiger Shark	124	79	203
White Shark	0	0	0
Other Sharks	92	266	358
Other Species	23	6	29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>753</b>

The Shark Control Program supports the Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS) Queensland Acoustic Array through the deployment and maintenance of acoustic receivers to detect tagged sharks and other marine life. This network does not operate in real-time. Information about tagged sharks and other marine life will provide valuable information to the broader scientific community. Detections of sharks tagged in the Shark Control Program will be analysed in consultation with experts and the Shark Control Program Scientific Working Group once enough data has been collected. However, it is important to note that tagged sharks will only be detected on an acoustic receiver if they swim within approximately 500 metres of an acoustic receiver so it is conceivable that not all tagged sharks will be detected.

The Palaszczuk Government will not compromise human safety and will continue to invest in the Shark Control Program. We are committed to continual improvement, but we will not make changes until we find effective alternatives that are proven to be suitable for Queensland conditions.