



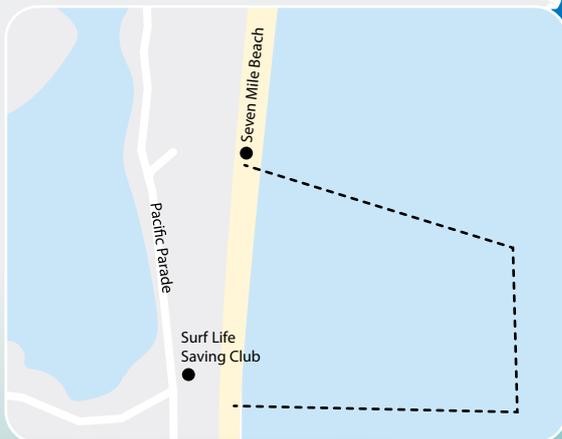
Barriers

For the first time on Australia's East Coast, NSW DPI aimed to trial two shark barriers in 2016 for three years to provide an enclosed shark-free area for Northern NSW beachgoers.

The objectives of the 3-year barrier trials were to determine:

- If the barriers could be safely and effectively installed
- Whether, once installed, they could survive in high energy coastal environments
- If there was public acceptance of their value as a shark mitigation method

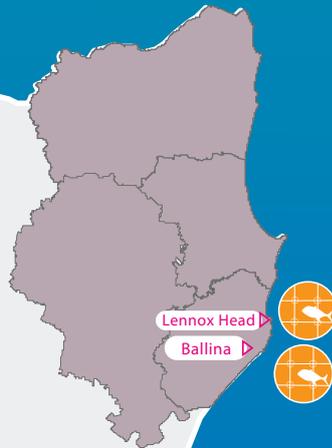
As the barriers could not be installed effectively and safely, both trials were discontinued.



Trial site at Seven Mile Beach, Lennox Head



Two of the three walls installed before damage occurred and the trial discontinued.

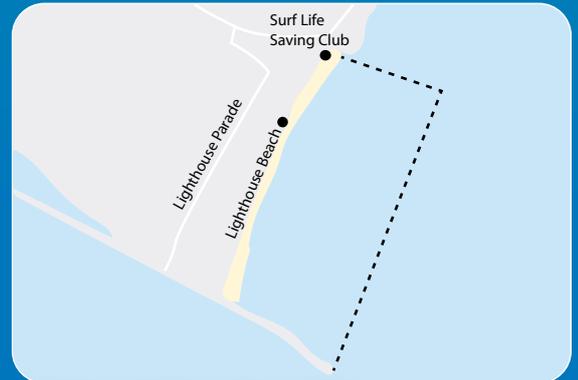


Trial 1: Eco Shark Barrier

Location: Lighthouse Beach, Ballina

Installation of the Eco Shark Barrier was attempted over three months, however only the concrete blocks to mark the north-eastern corner of the barrier in front of Ballina Head were installed.

East coast lows, highly mobile sandbanks, and constant exposure to ocean swells at Lighthouse Beach prevented installation. The trial was discontinued.



Trial site at Lighthouse Beach, Ballina



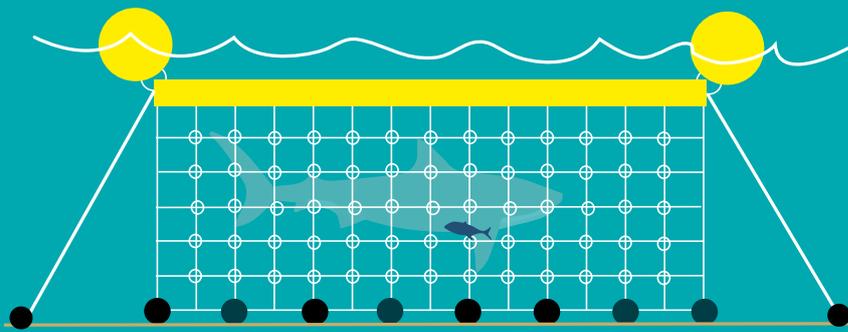
Eco Shark Barrier components laid out for installation

Trial 2: Global Marine Enclosures - Aquarius Barrier

Location: Seven Mile Beach, Lennox Head

All anchors, weights and ground chains were installed and two of the three barrier walls. Unfortunately, the eastern wall was irreparably damaged by sea conditions. The trial was discontinued.





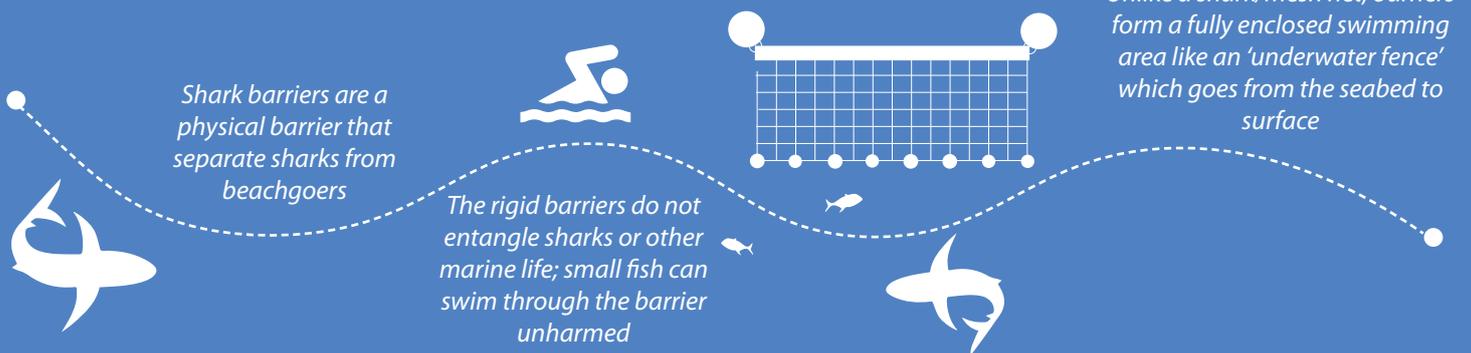
BENEFITS

- Swimmers use the ocean without the fear or risk of shark interactions
- Minimal impact to marine life - small marine creatures swim through barrier unharmed

CONSIDERATIONS

- Appropriate engineering and environmental assessments along with community consultation must be undertaken prior to barrier installation
- Barriers are effective at some WA ocean beaches as swimming enclosures, however, there are currently no commercially available barriers that protect surfers.
- Currently available shark barrier products are only suitable for NSW estuaries or highly sheltered coastlines
- Requires regular cleaning and maintenance to remove seaweed and biofouling

HOW BARRIERS WORK



WHAT THE COMMUNITY THINKS

Local Ballina and Lennox Head residents surveyed during the barrier trials identified that the shark barrier would:

- Make them feel safer
- Provide a safe area for people that are worried about shark bites and give the community peace of mind

But there were concerns that the barriers would:

- Be a safety hazard for surfers and swimmers
- Not withstand coastal conditions
- Impact natural aesthetics of beaches
- Entangle or trap marine life
- Stop use of surf breaks

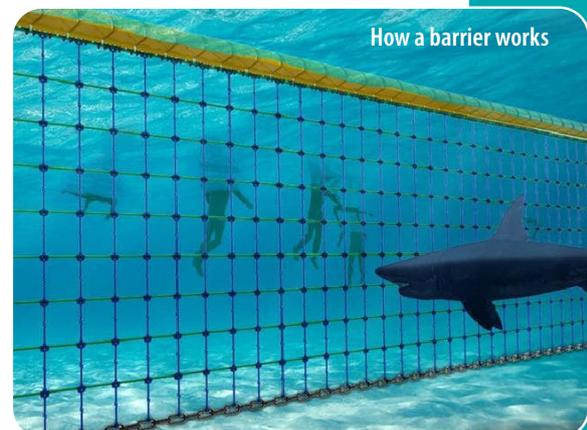


Image source: Global Marine Enclosures