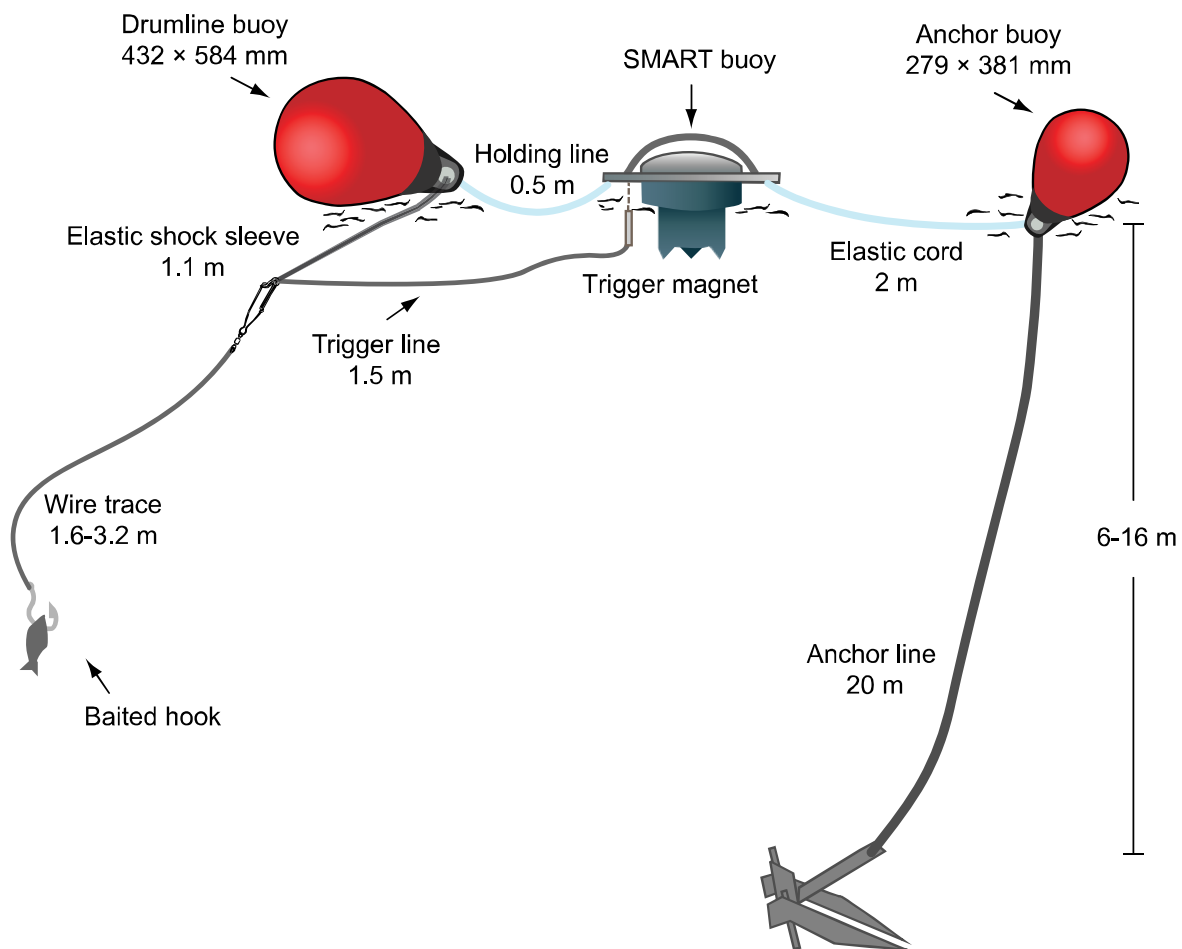
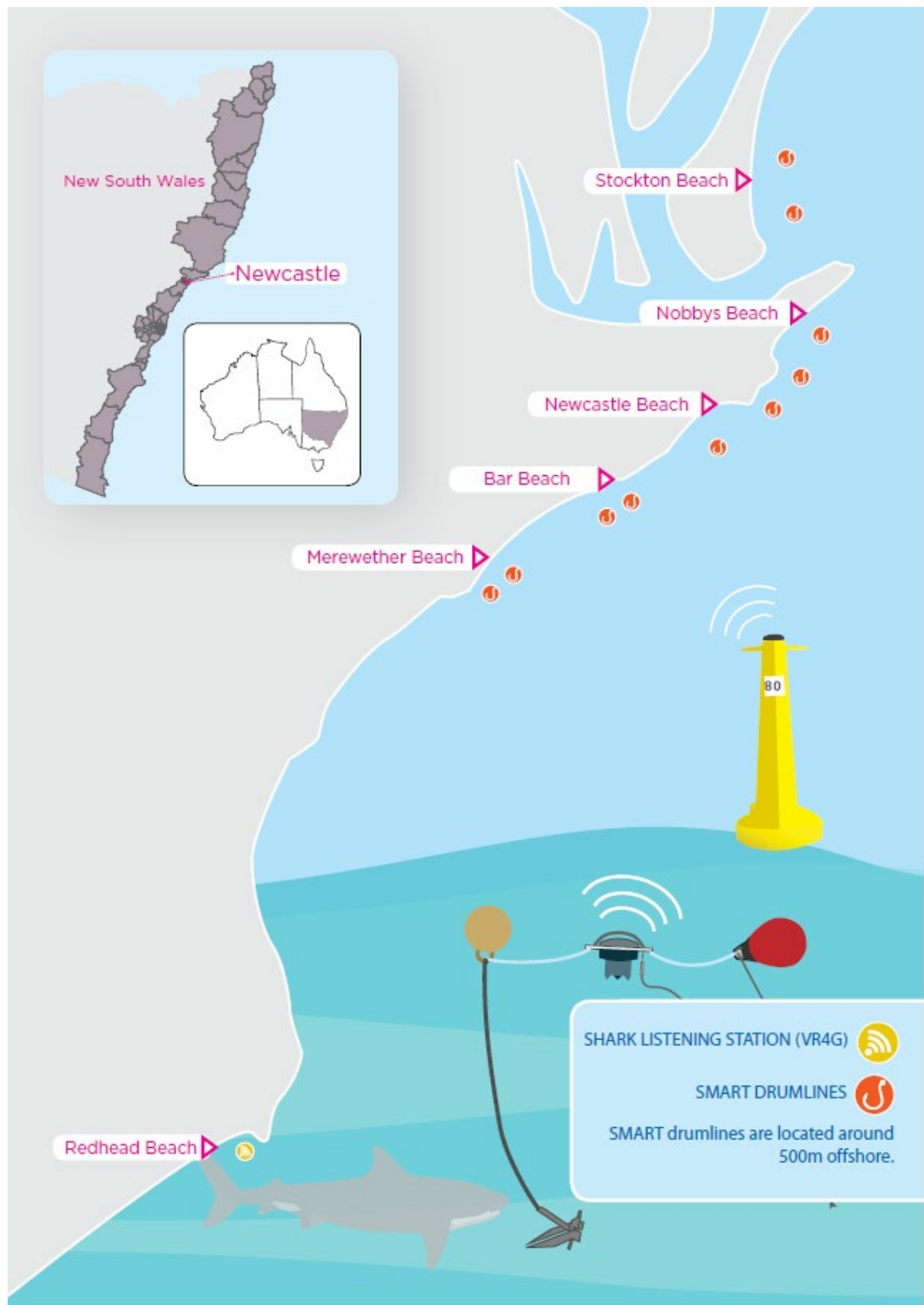


# SMART drumline trial results for Newcastle, September – December 2019

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**Figure 1:** Map showing positions of the SMART drumlines during the Newcastle trial, 1 September – 1 December 2019.

## **Operation**

During the three month trial from 1 September to 1 December 2019 at Newcastle (Figure 1), weather and ocean conditions allowed SMART drumlines to be deployed by DPI contractors for 74 days (80.4% of days). Environmental conditions determined how long SMART drumlines were deployed on any given day, ranging from 5:07h to 11:58h. On average, SMART drumlines were deployed for 09:48h/day.

## **Total catches**

A total of eight target sharks were caught (Tables 1 & 2): one Tiger Shark was caught at Newcastle Beach and seven White Sharks (6 at Stockton Beach and 1 at Nobbys Beach). No Bull Sharks were caught during the trial.

A total of five non-target animals were caught (Tables 1 & 2), including 5 Bronze Whalers. All sharks were released alive and in good condition.

## **Comments**

When the contractor responded to nine alerts that had no catch, they found that four hooks had no bait, two hooks 40% and three hooks 100% remaining. The contractor arrived at the SMART drumlines within an average of 16 minutes following an alert.

One shark failed to set off an alert at Stockton Beach on 12 October 2019. When the contractor arrived at the respective drumline for retrieval at the end of the day, a White Shark was found alive on the line (Tables 1 & 2). The trigger was still intact and had not been dislodged by the movement of the shark. The other sharks triggered alerts as normal.

**Table 1:** The date and time of capture of species and their sizes (total length in m), sex and status during the SMART drumline trial in Newcastle, 1 September – 1 December 2019.

Beach name	Date	Time	Species	Size (TL) and sex	Status
Stockton Beach	12/09/2019	14:26	White Shark	1.7; Male	Alive
	30/09/2019	07:01	Bronze Whaler	2.5; Female	Alive
	12/10/2019	16:25*	White Shark	1.9; Female	Alive
	14/10/2019	16:10	White Shark	2.0; Female	Alive
	21/10/2019	15:06	White Shark	1.9; Male	Alive
	27/10/2019	10:37	White Shark	2.3; Male	Alive
	12/11/2019	08:41	White Shark	2.3; Female	Alive
Nobbys Beach	29/10/2019	15:46	White Shark	1.9; Female	Alive
Newcastle Beach	04/11/2019	14:41	Bronze Whaler	2.6; Male	Alive
	06/11/2019	07:59	Tiger Shark	2.6; Female	Alive
Bar Beach	11/09/2019	15:11	Bronze Whaler	2.0; Male	Alive
Merewether Beach	02/10/2019	14:48	Bronze Whaler	2.5; Male	Alive
	12/10/2019	08:32	Bronze Whaler	2.3; Male	Alive

\*No alert. Time is indicative of when the contractor arrived to pick up the gear at the end of the day.

**Table 2:** Cumulative totals of animals caught in the Newcastle SMART drumline trial, 1 September to 1 December 2019.

Common name	Newcastle
<b>TARGET SHARKS</b>	
White Shark	7
Tiger Shark	1
Bull Shark	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>NON-TARGET ANIMALS</b>	
Bronze Whaler	5
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>