



Adam Marshall
Minister for Agriculture
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MEDIA RELEASE

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SHARKS HOOKED ON SMART DRUMLINES

The NSW Government's SMART drumlines trials have proved a success with the devices snagging scores of sharks at beaches across Sydney, Newcastle and the South and North Coast.

Minister for Agriculture Adam Marshall today said the SMART (Shark-Management-Alert-in-Real-Time) drumline trials helped reduce the risk of shark incidents at NSW beaches.

"We have had some great results from SMART drumlines along our NSW coastline this summer, which has helped us learn more about shark movements and the effectiveness of this technology," Mr Marshall said.

"NSW is leading the world in trials of SMART drumlines. These innovative devices allow target sharks to be caught, tagged and released out at sea, with experts then tracking their movements and alerting authorities when a shark is near.

"In Sydney alone we managed to intercept 14 sharks over a 90 day period, while on the South Coast 16 species were caught including 6 White and 5 tiger Sharks.

"The beauty of this technology is that it not only prevents shark encounters but also allows scientists to monitor the tagged sharks and learn more about their behaviour.

"After the shark is tagged, they are relocated and released approximately 1km offshore. Our shark tagging program is now estimated to be the largest in the world.

"SMART drumlines complement the shark nets that are in place at Sydney, Wollongong and Newcastle beaches from 1 September to 30 April each year."

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) will now analyse the results of the trials before making an informed decision about next steps. The SMART Drumline trials are part of the NSW Government's \$16 million Shark Management Strategy. Other shark mitigation measures include aerial surveillance, tagging and shark meshing. The SMART Drumline trial on the North Coast is ongoing.

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SMART DRUMLINE TRIALS		
Location	Shark species	Size
Sydney (90 day trial) Catch Data to 10 May		
Dee Why/Manly	1 Tiger Shark	250cm
	9 Dusky Whaler	130cm, 160cm, 140cm, 170cm, 110cm, 140cm, 250cm, 150cm, 150cm
Palm Beach - Newport	1 Dusky Whaler 1 unidentified Whaler 1 Smooth Hammerhead 1 Tiger Shark	160cm 160cm 240cm 350cm
South Coast (60 day trial)		
Tathra	6 White Sharks	182cm, 175cm, 170cm, 159cm, 158cm, 150cm
	3 Tiger Sharks	168cm, 150cm, 131cm
	2 Bronze Whaler	210cm, 276cm
Merimbula	2 Tiger Sharks	320cm, 180cm
	1 Grey nurse	258cm
	2 Bronze Whaler	240cm; 268cm
Newcastle (90 day trial)		
	1 Dusky Whaler	100cm
	1 Common Blacktip	230cm
	1 Mako Shark	270cm
	1 Smooth Hammerhead	190cm
North Coast – ongoing to 30 June 2020. Catch data for period 1 Feb - 30 April 2019		
Lennox Head	Tiger Shark Tiger Shark Tiger shark Tiger Shark Tiger Shark Tiger Shark	240cm 280cm 260cm 270cm 240 cm 220 cm
Lennox Head	Bull Shark	210cm
Lennox Head	White shark	310cm
Boulders Beach	Tiger Shark	250cm
South Ballina Beach	Tiger Shark	260cm
	Tiger Shark	230cm
Sharpes Beach Ballina	White shark	240 cm
Lighthouse Beach Ballina	Bull Shark	170cm
Evans Head	Tiger Shark Tiger Shark Tiger Shark Tiger Shark Tiger Shark Tiger Shark Tiger Shark Shortfin Mako Shark	270cm 350cm 230cm 190cm 200cm 200cm 200cm 230cm
Ballina/Lennox	Dusky Whaler	340cm
Ballina/Lennox	Common Blacktip	240m