

SMART DRUMLINE TRIAL STOCKTON TO MEREWETHER

January 2019

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is trialling 10 SMART (Shark-Management-Alert-In-Real-Time) drumlines across Newcastle beaches from 1 February to 30 April 2019.

Each day, 10 SMART drumlines will be set in the morning and collected in the evening (weather dependent) across Stockton, Nobbys, Newcastle, Bar, Dixon Park and Merewether beaches, located near existing shark nets to compare how this new technology performs. They are not left out overnight.

SMART drumlines are new technology that allow target sharks to be intercepted beyond the surf break; once caught, they are tagged and relocated 1 km offshore.

'Target sharks' are White, Bull and Tiger sharks as they are the species mainly involved in shark bites in NSW.

Currently, DPI is successfully trialling 35 SMART drumlines between Evans Head and Lennox Head and has completed trials at Coffs Harbour, Forster, Kiama, and Ulladulla.

Trials in NSW have shown that SMART drumlines are effective at managing target sharks with minimal impact on the marine environment. Reports from other trials can be found on our website at dpi.nsw.gov.au/drumlines.

DPI manages the NSW Government's five-year Shark Management Strategy. SMART drumlines are one of the new technologies that are being trialled for shark management along with drones and helicopters for aerial surveillance.

This is the first time SMART drumlines will be trialled in Newcastle and will complement the NSW Government's Shark Meshing (nets) Program.

Sharks tagged in the trial will allow DPI and the community to monitor shark movements along the NSW coast.



Stay up to date on community education events and read more about SMART drumlines at dpi.nsw.gov.au/drumlines

SMART DRUMLINE

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a SMART drumline?

'SMART' stands for Shark-Management-Alert-In-Real-Time. SMART drumlines consist of an anchor, two buoys and a satellite-linked GPS communications unit attached to a hook baited with one sea mullet.

A triggering magnet is attached to the communications unit. When a shark takes the bait and puts pressure on the line, the magnet is released alerting the boat crew and DPI scientists that there is an animal on the line. Once alerted, the team responds immediately (within 30 minutes) to tag and release the shark or other marine animal.

SMART drumlines are set every morning (weather dependent) approximately 500m offshore at a depth between 8-15m of water. They are collected at the end of each day and are not left overnight.

Where are sharks released if they are captured?

Once a target shark (White, Bull or Tiger shark) is tagged, it is relocated about 1km offshore. Data collected from other trials show that relocated target sharks move away from the area for several months, before resuming their natural migratory path.

How will I know if a shark has been captured?

An alert will be made publicly available through DPI's [SharkSmart](#) mobile app and Twitter [@NSWSharkSmart](#) after the shark is released.

Automatic alerts are also posted when a tagged shark swims within 500m of one of the 21 shark listening stations across NSW. A shark listening station (the big, yellow buoy) operates at Redhead Beach located 500m offshore.

Information about target sharks caught during the trial will be posted on DPI social media channels so you can keep up to date with what we're catching.

Will information about all marine animals caught be provided?

Monthly reports on what animals were caught and if they were released alive or died on the SMART drumline are provided on DPI's website. At the end of the trial, a short report will be published at dpi.nsw.gov.au/drumlines.

Do SMART drumlines attract sharks?

SMART drumlines are set up just beyond the surf break to intercept sharks as they naturally move up and down the coast. Trials completed to date have shown that a single mullet on the hook does not attract sharks into the beach.

DPI has set and retrieved over 30,000 sets of SMART drumlines, often resulting in no catch and bait still intact at the end of the day. If the 'attractant' myth was true, then DPI would be catching sharks almost continuously, which is not the case.

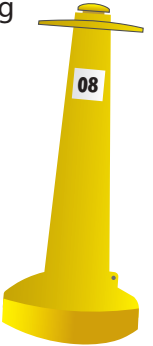
How are sharks tagged?

For this trial, an acoustic tag will be attached at the base of the shark dorsal fin that will be picked up on the network of 21 listening stations.

Will nets be removed from beaches?

There are no plans to remove nets from beaches. However, DPI want to continue to find ways to reduce the risk to beachgoers right across NSW.

For further enquiries contact nsw.sharkstrategy@dpi.nsw.gov.au



SMART Drumline
set in morning
and retrieved in
afternoon

Alert Sent
when shark, or
marine animal
takes the bait

Boat Deployed
DPI contractor responds
within 30 minutes

**Tag and
Release**

After Release
tracking shows
sharks move away
for a period