

Tracks of last recorded position of tagged white sharks – current as of 25 September 2015



NORTH COAST LOCAL WATERS SHARK TAGGING PROJECT

The North Coast Local Waters Shark Tagging Project is part of the NSW Government's \$250,000 targeted shark attack mitigation campaign on the State's north coast. The project is being led out of Ballina by the Department of Primary Industries' shark biologists Dr Vic Peddemors and Dr Paul Butcher, in collaboration with experts from CSIRO.

The aim is to target individual sharks which appear to be frequenting waters close to shore and involves locating sharks from a helicopter and then capturing and tagging them from a boat. Both externally mounted satellite tags and surgically inserted acoustic tags register the natural movements of the sharks to determine the environmental and biological factors affecting white shark distribution in coastal waters. Understanding these underlying factors will assist in identifying potential areas of increased risk to water users.

We are able to access data from tagged sharks from receivers called listening stations that detect when a tagged shark passes close by.

A total of eight sharks have been tagged on the far north coast to date and are now carrying both a satellite and acoustic tag.

The NSW Government's focus on the north coast also includes:

- » Deployment of DPI Fisheries boats to include assessment of local conditions to inform research.
- » North Coast SharkSmart public education campaign and partnership with local surf clubs to distribute SharkSmart campaign materials and information.
- » Fast-tracked observation towers funding from the Towers Grant Program – now open for applications.
- » Representation on the Ballina Shire Shark Mitigation Advisory Group.
- » Ongoing aerial surveys to scientifically assess seasonal changes in shark and other marine wildlife abundance and distribution.
- » Additional aerial surveillance over the spring holidays.

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| 1 | 2.2m female travelled a total of 957 km | tagged off Evans Head 26 August 2015 |
| 2 | 2.2m female travelled a total of 409 km | tagged off Shelly Beach 26 August 2015 |
| 3 | 3.0m female travelled a total of 63 km | tagged off Lennox Head 28 August 2015 |
| 4 | 2.4m male travelled a total of 599 km | tagged off Sharpes Beach 30 August 2015 |
| 5 | 3.1m female no registered position to date | tagged south of Ballina 8 September 2015 |
| 6 | 2.2m female travelled a total of 150 km | tagged south of Ballina 12 September 2015 |
| 7 | 2.9m female travelled a total of 101 km | tagged off Broken Head 12 September 2015 |
| 8 | 2.4m male travelled a total of 114 km | tagged off Ballina 13 September 2015 |