



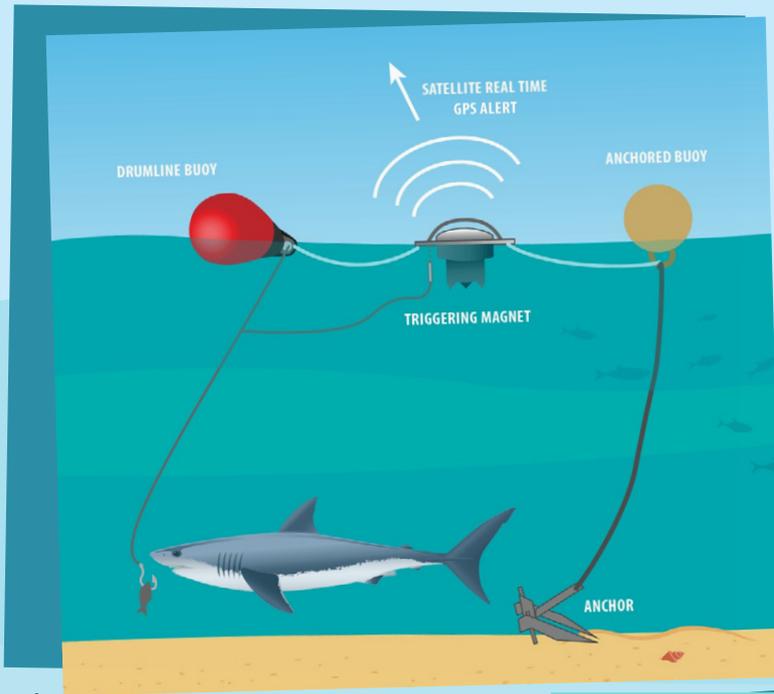
# SMART DRUMLINES – LAKE MACQUARIE CITY COUNCIL

SMART drumlines are being deployed daily by DPI at beaches in Lake Macquarie City Council

## Q What are SMART drumlines?

A '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 trigger magnet is attached to the communications unit. When an animal takes the bait and puts pressure on the line, the magnet is released alerting contractors that there is an animal on the line. Once alerted, the team responds within 30 minutes to tag and release the shark or other marine animal.



## Q How do SMART drumlines make beaches safer?

A Intercepting and catching sharks as they travel along our coastline and towards beaches reduces the chances of an interaction with water users. The relocation of captured White, Bull and Tiger sharks (target sharks) and the natural reaction of sharks to move offshore after release, provides us with confidence that SMART drumlines are effective in removing the immediate risk to beach users at that beach and other nearby beaches.

Most sharks that are tagged and relocated move away from the coast for a couple of months before they are again detected on a listening station, usually over 150km away from where they were tagged.

## Q Where are they located?

A Within Lake Macquarie Council, SMART Drumlines are located from Dudley to Catherine Hill Bay.



Shark Listening Station

SMART drumlines

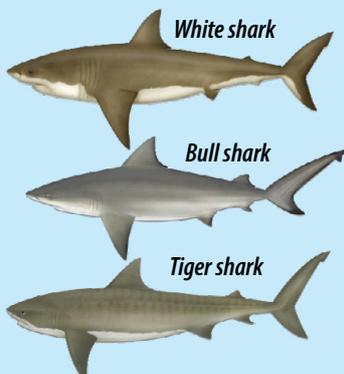
SMART drumlines are located around 500m offshore

**Q What happens when a shark is captured?**

**A** When a shark is captured, the pressure on the line triggers the communications unit which alerts contractors to the presence of an animal on the line. The team then responds immediately to the SMART drumline alert. Target sharks are tagged, relocated approximately 1km offshore and released, allowing DPI to collect data about sharks and their seasonal pattern of movements along the NSW Coast.

**Q What is a 'target shark'?**

**A** 'Target sharks' are White, Bull and Tiger sharks – the three sharks that are predominantly involved in serious shark attacks in NSW.



**Q How will I know if a shark has been captured?**

**A** An alert will be posted on the SharkSmart mobile app, watch app, and Twitter @NSWSharkSmart. Automatic alerts are also posted when a tagged shark swims within approximately 500m of one of the shark listening stations across NSW.



**Q Do the SMART drumlines attract sharks to the area?**

**A** SMART drumlines are positioned well away from shore and are set to intercept and catch target sharks as they travel along our coastline. The single mullet deployed on each SMART drumline is unlikely to lead to attraction of sharks from any distance and no burley is used. No bait is discarded at sea.

**Q Do tagged sharks return to the area?**

**A** All sharks exhibit what is known as philopatric behaviour, that is they return to particular reefs, rivers, and habitats repeatedly during the course of their lives. White, Tiger and Bull sharks are no different and are likely to spend more time in some areas than others during their migratory movements. It can therefore be expected that most will return to the NSW coast during the course of their lives, and contrary to the urban myth, they do not take up permanent residency at any site in NSW waters.

**Q Do SMART drumlines harm whales or other animals?**

**A** SMART drumlines are designed to break apart if there is an interaction with a whale which ensures they can continue swimming unharmed. As the gear is GPS tracked, contractors can retrieve the gear.

Contractors respond to alerts within 30 minutes which ensures a high survival rate (99%) if other non-target species are caught.

**Q How can you make sure you're safe from sharks in the ocean?**

**A** Sharks are a natural part of our oceans and we can never guarantee there won't be interactions. However, a better awareness and understanding of sharks and their behaviour can help everyone enjoy the beach and reduce their risk of a shark encounter. Know the conditions in which sharks are more likely to be present, and follow alerts on Twitter @NSWSharkSmart or download the NSW SharkSmart App and Watch App. Visit [sharksmart.nsw.gov.au](http://sharksmart.nsw.gov.au) for more information.

**Q How can you ask a question or provide feedback?**

**A** You can ask questions or provide feedback via email at [nsw.sharkprogram@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nsw.sharkprogram@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

**Q Will the nets be removed where SMART drumlines are located?**

**A** No, the 21/22 Program includes the continued deployment of shark nets in the Greater Sydney Region from 1 Sept–30 April while we continue to monitor the effectiveness of the Program.

**CONTACTS**

**Call 000 in an emergency**

Shark bite incident .....	Call 000
Shark sighting .....	Dorsal shark alert app or <a href="http://dorsalwatch.com/report/">dorsalwatch.com/report/</a> , local SLS NSW Club
Dead shark on a beach .....	Council or local Fisheries Office
Whale, dolphin, seal or turtle on a beach .....	National Parks and Wildlife Service 1300 072 757 (1300 OPARKS) or ORRCA (02) 9415 3333
SMART drumline report .....	Fisheries Information Line 1300 550 474
Shark Listening Station report.....	Fisheries Information Line 1300 550 474
General shark enquiry .....	Fisheries Information Line 1300 550 474 or email <a href="mailto:nsw.sharkprogram@dpi.nsw.gov.au">nsw.sharkprogram@dpi.nsw.gov.au</a>