

ITEM A

LORD MAYORAL MINUTE - REQUEST FOR DRUM LINES TO BE USED FOR SHARK MANAGEMENT IN WOLLONGONG

Since 2015 the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has undertaken trials of SMART (Shark Management Alert in Real Time) drumlines at multiple locations on the NSW coast, including on the South Coast between November 2017 and May 2018.

Fifteen sharks were caught during the six-month trial of ten SMART drumlines off South Coast beaches.

Ten drumlines were deployed daily, weather permitting, by DPI off beaches between Shell Cove and Kiama. Another 10 were trialled from Ulladulla to Narrawallee.

Ten sharks were caught, tagged and released at Kiama – nine tiger sharks and one white shark.

Five sharks (three whites and two tigers) were tagged off Ulladulla.

Researchers are alerted when a shark takes the SMART drumline's baited hook. The sharks are tagged and released one kilometre off shore, then tracked using satellite and listening stations.

Initial findings from the trial suggested once tagged, the sharks then stay in deeper offshore waters for up to four weeks before re-joining their counterparts in their general movements north and south.

RECOMMENDATION

Wollongong City Council write to the NSW Minister for Agriculture to –

- 1 Express concern at the use of netting as a means of shark control on the NSW coastline and more specifically the large proportion of marine fauna by-catch such as turtles, stingrays, dolphin and non-threatening sharks being caught and killed.
- 2 Request the use of SMART drum lines and aerial surveillance technology as a more suitable, ecologically sound, alternative in addressing the need to protect users of our beaches and surfing locations especially in the wollongong LGA and the Illawarra.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.