



Tagged shark smashes distance record

A **BLUE** shark recaptured on 26 April 2010 by a longliner fishing some 100nm off the southeast coast of South Africa, has clocked up the record distance travelled by any shark recorded by the Industry & Investment NSW (I&I NSW) Game Fish Tagging Program. The previous record was a blue shark that was released off Kilcunda, Victoria and recaptured in the Indian Ocean approximately 320nm southeast of Christmas Island. This shark recorded a straight-line distance of 2400nm. The new record-breaking fish recorded a straight line distance of 5073nm, having swum across the Indian Ocean from its release at Port Macdonnell in South Australia five years earlier.

The blue shark was released originally by avid tagger and Adelaide GFC member Paul Williams when fishing wide of Port Macdonnell on May 20, 2005. This is Paul's 17th tagged fish that has been recaptured! The blue shark was estimated to be 9kg in weight when first tagged, and was released on a day when he had caught 15

other blue sharks ranging from 120-180cm long using circle hooks. When recaptured, the shark was found to be dead on the longline. It was recorded as a male blue shark and weighed 47kg.

Blue sharks are known to be extremely mobile and spend a high proportion of time in areas way offshore from any landmasses. This is reflected in previous recaptures where a significant proportion of blue sharks have been caught by longline boats fishing distant offshore locations.

TIGER SHARKS TOO

Nickol Bay SFC boat *Tourettes* has been successfully targeting tiger sharks over the past 16 months, fishing their local grounds near Dampier in northern Western Australia. Kevin Deacon's team has tagged 28 tiger sharks over this time, accounting for over 30% of all tiger sharks tagged off WA since the program began!

The *Tourettes* team are keen release anglers and have done what they can to maximise the survival of tagged fish using

non-offset circle hooks and clothes line wire as trace material (to assist with the breakdown of any trace left attached to tagged fish). They have recently notched up three recaptures of sharks that they originally tagged. One shark recaptured by Candice Williams (as shown) after a period of almost 15 months at liberty had been previously released by *Tourettes* when fishing off Dampier in March of 2009. It was recaptured in Nickol Bay in June 2010, just 17 nautical miles (as the crow flies) from the release location.

The other two sharks were recaptured on the same night as the first release, in the same location. Interestingly, one of the tigers was caught after being released only two hours earlier, despite it fighting for 80 minutes when first released!

The Industry and Investment NSW (I&I NSW) Program issues



Candice Williams with her tagged tiger shark.

tags to individuals and fishing clubs and is funded by the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust. If you would like to participate in the program please phone (02) 9527 8411 or email: gamefish.tagging@industry.nsw.gov.au ■

- Phil Bolton
Fisheries Manager, Tagging I&I NSW

Species	Tag number	Rel. date	Rel. location	Est. rel. length/weight	Recap. date	Recap. location	Est. recap. length/weight	Days at liberty	Approx. distance moved (nm)	Map ref.
Blue Shark	A357728	20/05/2005	Port Macdonnell	9kg	26/04/2010	Indian Ocean	47kg	1802	5073	BS
Tiger Shark	S228420	15/03/2009	Dampier	110kg	1/06/2010	Nickol Bay	110kg	443	17	TS 1
Tiger Shark	S228574	16/04/2010	Nickol Bay	100kg	16/04/2010	Nickol Bay	100kg	0	0	TS 2
Tiger Shark	S228578	28/05/2010	Nickol Bay	150 kg	28/05/2010	Nickol Bay	150kg	0	0	TS 3

