



Niall Blair

Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Regional Water
Minister for Trade and Industry

MEDIA RELEASE

Sunday, 10th February 2019

SYDNEY HOOKS ITS FIRST SMART DRUMLINES

Editor's note: New drone vision of drumlines being deployed at Manly this morning available [here](#) + [click here for file vision and animation](#)

Sydney's first SMART drumlines are now in the water from Barrenjoey to Newport and from Dee Why to Manly beaches, as part of a trial to determine what role SMART drumlines can play in reducing the risk of shark attacks at Sydney beaches.

From 10 February to 12 May 2019, 20 SMART drumlines will be trialled at Palm, Whale, Avalon, Bilgola, Newport, Manly, Queenscliff, Freshwater, Curl Curl and Dee Why beaches near existing shark nets.

Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair said this technology has achieved some fantastic results on both the North and South Coast and will now be tested at some of our State's most popular beaches.

"We're leading the world in trials of this technology but in order to continue to learn more about shark movements and the effectiveness of this technology we need to be testing it at some of our busiest beaches," Mr Blair said.

"While we are confident in this new technology, we have no intention of removing any shark nets from Sydney, Wollongong or Newcastle beaches. This measure is to complement nets so that we're doing everything we can to protect beachgoers.

"We'll run this trial, collect the data, speak to the community and assess what other areas we could trial SMART drumlines in the future."

SMART drumlines allow contractors to humanely and safely catch sharks, tag them and then relocate them away from swimmers and surfers before releasing them. When a tagged shark is detected, the community is instantly alerted through the SharkSmart App and Twitter feeds.

The drumlines will be set 500 metres offshore every morning (weather permitting) and collected at the end of each day. They consist of two buoys and a satellite-linked communications unit, which is attached to a hook baited with a single mullet.

Member for Manly, James Griffin said it is fantastic to see new and emerging technologies for minimising the risk of shark attacks being trialled at Sydney's premier beaches.

"Our communities, tourists and marine environment will be better off thanks to the knowledge generated from this trial," Mr Griffin said.

“This trial will provide the first opportunity to investigate how the technology can operate in our own backyard and the results will inform future shark management measures on the Northern Beaches.

“I encourage the community to visit the SMART drumline community information drop-in stands over the coming weeks where you’ll be able to chat to DPI staff in person and learn more about how the technology works.”

The NSW Government’s shark tagging program is currently tracking 329 White Sharks, 70 Bull Sharks and 47 Tiger Sharks.

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