

## Which beaches have shark safety equipment?

To minimise the risk of shark attack, DPI&F recommends that people swim at patrolled beaches where shark safety equipment is in place. DPI&F strongly advises you to check if, and when, these beaches are patrolled by lifesaving services. Contact the local Council and/or Surf Life Saving Queensland on phone 07 3846 8000 or visit [www.lifesaving.com.au](http://www.lifesaving.com.au)

Area	Beaches				
<b>Bundaberg</b>	Bargara	Kelly's Beach	Nielson Park	Oaks Beach	
<b>Cairns</b>	Buchans Point Beach	Clifton Beach	Ellis Beach	Holloways Beach	Palm Cove
	Trinity Beach	Yorkeys Knob			
<b>Gold Coast</b>	Broadbeach	Burleigh Beach	Bilinga Beach	Coolangatta Beach	Currumbin
	Elkhorn Avenue	Greenmount Beach	Kirra Beach	Kurrawa Beach	Main Beach
	Mermaid Beach	Sheraton Mirage Beach	Miami Beach	North Burleigh Beach	Northcliffe
	North Kirra Beach	Narrow Neck	Nobby Beach	Palm Beach	Rainbow Bay
	Staghorn Avenue	Surfers Paradise Beach	Tallebudgera Beach	Tugun Beach	
<b>Mackay</b>	Blacks Beach	Bucasia Beach	Eimeo Beach	Harbour Beach	Lamberts Beach
<b>Nth Stradbroke Is.</b>	Amity Point	Cylinder Beach	Ocean Beach		
<b>Capricorn Coast</b>	Cooee Bay	Emu Park	Farnborough Beach	Fisherman Beach	Kemp Beach
	Lammermoor Beach	Mullambin Beach	Tanby Point	Yeppoon	
<b>Sunshine Coast</b>	Alexandra Headland	Bribie Island	Buddina Beach	Caloundra	Castaways Beach
	Coolum Beach	Currimundi	Hyatt Regency Resort	Marcus Beach	Marcoola Beach
	Maroochydore Beach	Moffat Beach	Mooloolaba Beach	Mudjimba Beach	Noosa
	Peregian Beach	Point Cartwright	Sunrise Beach	Sunshine Beach	Surfair Resort
	Twin Waters Resort	Wurtulla	Yaroomba Beach		
<b>Gladstone</b>	Tannum Sands				
<b>Townsville</b>	Alma Bay	Florence Bay	Horseshoe Bay	Kissing Point	Nellie Bay
	Pallarenda Beach	Picnic Bay	Radical Bay		
<b>Rainbow Beach</b>	Rainbow Beach				

# Safety at the beach

## Queensland's shark safety program



Queensland, Australia

For more information about the Shark Safety Program call the **DPI&F Call Centre** on **13 25 23** or visit [www.dpi.qld.gov.au/fishweb](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/fishweb)

**Shark hotline 1800 806 891**

Queensland's beaches are among the most beautiful and popular in the world. A shark safety program is in place in many locations across the State to provide added protection for locals and visitors alike who wish to swim at our most popular beaches.

Since its introduction in 1962, this program has been effective in protecting swimmers by reducing the population of large sharks in a localised area and thereby minimising the risk of attack. However, while the program has an enviable record, it does not place an impenetrable barrier between bathers and sharks.

Shark safety equipment is currently in place at 87 beaches at 10 centres along Queensland's tropical and subtropical coast. Research continues into the most effective shark control methods to ensure that our beaches remain safe for everyone to enjoy.



### How does shark control work?

Shark safety equipment is usually located on selected beaches patrolled by lifesavers or lifeguards. Equipment designed to catch sharks more than 2 metres long is positioned off major swimming beaches. This equipment can consist of both drumlines and/or nets depending on local tidal and marine conditions.

Drumlines consist of a large hook, with fresh bait attached, suspended from a plastic float and anchored to the sea bed with a rope, chain and anchor. If a shark takes the bait and swims away, the resistance created by the float embeds the hook in the shark's mouth, allowing it to be captured.

Nets are 186 metres long and 6 metres deep. They are placed adjacent to the beach and anchored to the seabed.

Scientists believe that resident sharks may learn that nets and drumlines placed in their local areas represent an obstacle and actively avoid them. This in itself deters and reduces the local population of large sharks in that particular area.

### Who is involved in shark control?

Officers from the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) supervise the private contractors who monitor and maintain the equipment for both drumlines and nets.

Researchers keep track of catches by recording data on species, age and gender as well as water temperature and weather conditions.

### How are other forms of marine life protected?

The number of marine animals, such as dolphins, dugongs or turtles, captured in shark safety equipment is small, and the impact on their populations minor. A 24-hour emergency hotline—1800 806 891—can be used to notify DPI&F of the capture of any marine animal. The animal will then either be released or provided with veterinary care as quickly as possible. Some animals may be kept and used for vital scientific research.

The Queensland Government is protecting marine animals by:

1. creating 'marine rescue squads' to handle the animals' safe release
2. releasing alive non-dangerous and protected species of sharks
3. involving community groups in the future directions of the shark safety program
4. researching options while maintaining high levels of bather safety but reducing inadvertent catch.

An acoustic deterrent device is also being used to reduce humpback whale and dolphin entrapment. It emits an acoustic signal warning animals of an obstruction such as a shark net in the water. Researchers are closely monitoring the effectiveness of this device.

### Rules for safe swimming

To minimise the risk of shark attack:

1	Always swim or surf at patrolled beaches, between the flags and where there is shark safety equipment in place.
2	Obey the lifesavers' and lifeguards' advice, and heed all flags and noticeboard warnings.
3	Leave the water if a shark is sighted.
4	Do not swim or surf after dusk, at night, or before dawn when shark attack is more likely.
5	Do not swim or surf in murky or silt-laden waters.
6	Do not swim in, or near the mouth of, rivers, artificial canals and lakes.
7	Never swim alone.
8	Never swim when bleeding.
9	Do not swim near schools of fish.
10	Do not swim near, or interfere with, shark safety equipment.

*Remember sharks can inhabit tidal and non-tidal waters including some freshwater streams.*