

**Submission
No 43**

MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES WATERS

Organisation: Port Macquarie Longboard Club Inc.
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Date Received: 23/10/2015



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**Port Macquarie Longboard Submission for Management of Sharks in NSW
Waters**

The Committee Manager

Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development

Parliament House

Macquarie St

Sydney NSW 2000

Port Macquarie Longboarders is a Local Club formed in 1992 to promote surfing on traditional Malibu or longboards usually over 9 foot in length. The Clubs membership comprises a mix of juniors, women and young men and retirees. We have in our midst many members who compete on regional, state and national levels at various locations up and down the coast and interstate. We have a fairly broad range of members in both experience and expertise. Since 2013 we have all noticed a spike in Shark numbers and not long after we had the fatalities and shark attacks up and down the coast.

We are not alone in this phenomenon as currently there are several hot spots around the world the main ones being Reunion Island, Western Australia, Eastern Australia, Hawaii {Maui} and Southern California.

So as to get a bit of a cross section of opinions of what can be done to improve current shark management options we did a survey at our last competition and have attached our results.

Being the compiler of this survey, it was rather interesting to see the vast differing opinions and their solutions.

As far as I can tell Port Macquarie has no current Shark Management options other than the occasional Aerial shark patrols and the Surf Life Saving measures which seem to concentrate on flagged areas which Longboarder's don't surf in.

The Survey was in two parts the first part were generalised questions about Shark Management the second part put some solutions in no particular order and we asked them to rank them in order.

The first part was quiet easy as the questions very generalised and the yes's won those easily .

1. Do you think shark attacks will affect tourism and surf related businesses in Port Macquarie.

Yes

2. Do you think that employing various shark management strategies throughout the Hastings will have an effect on shark numbers, behaviour and habitat.

Yes

3. Do you believe the marine environment is cleaner than was in 2000.

Yes

4. Do you believe that we, in the Port Macquarie area should employ shark management strategies?

Yes

The second part of the survey was about what measures NSW Government could take to prevent further Shark attacks or fatalities.

Attached is a table which the members ranking and numbers on each Management Strategy.

Measures to prevent shark attacks and fatalities

Strategy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
a) Invest in preventative technology such as sonar shark shield technology or similar to protect surfers.	3	1	1	1	5			1
b) Drum baits, 500 metres to 1 kilometre offshore, with anchor and chain with hooks to lure them away from beaches (patrolled by professional fishermen). This practice is currently used in Queensland.	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	
c) Extend shark nets to all popular beaches. Currently netting only occurs from Wollongong to Newcastle. This could be combined with drum baits currently used in Queensland.	2	2	1	2	4	1		
d) Aircraft or drone surveillance over popular beaches.	2	3	1	2	1	1	1	1
e) Tag and track problematic sharks.		2	4	2	1		2	1
f) Shark cull to reduce overall numbers.	1	1	3	1			6	1
g) Cull only the problematic sharks.	1	1				8	1	
h) Remove protection of great white shark species.				2		1	1	8

It was fairly divided what measures would make a difference but overall the Drum Baits or long lines as used in Queensland have the runs on the board and don't need any trials or debate they just work as they lure the Sharks away from the beaches.

The shark nets being extended to the mid north coast had support but would only work at certain beaches there was also concern about the collateral damage to other species such as dolphins.

The investigation into preventative technology such as sonar was another good option but was unproven and still relies on people doing the investigation on where the sharks are and not going in near them.

The aircraft or drone surveillance over popular beaches is good but very expensive and you would have to cover from Bega to Kingscliff and you are still relying on communication being spread to surfers and assuming everyone has a mobile phone.

There were two proposals that were quite popular about just tracking and culling just problem sharks.

Not sure how that would work, do you wait for someone to be attacked by a so called problem shark then you track it down and cull it?

Another popular option was a shark cull of certain shark species to get their numbers down to a level which is sustainable. The most noticeable being Great White ,Tiger and Bull Sharks.

Finally the most misunderstood solution of removing the Great White off the protected species until an accurate picture can be painted on what the number of sharks have grown to since 1995.

In conclusion we look to the NSW Government to do something very soon as there is a lot of very spooked out surfers looking down a lot into the water not knowing what is under them.

More investigation needs to go into finding out why the sharks have changed their behaviour and what are the actual numbers we are dealing with.

There has been several shark alarms and beaches closed at Port Macquarie in the past few weeks and confidence in the current system is very low.

Most competitions up and down the coast now have the added cost of employing a water safety jet ski just to protect the surfers. Two examples are Loggerheads at Scotts Head and Crescent Head Classic.

We thank you for the opportunity to voice our opinion on a subject which is very much a way of life for all of us.

CC to Local Member and Mayor

PMLBC Submission to Shark Management Inquiry

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5. Other related matters.

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a) Do you think shark attacks will affect tourism and surf-related businesses in Port Macquarie?

YES ()

NO (/)

b) Do you think that employing various shark management strategies throughout the Hastings area will have an effect on shark numbers, behaviour and habitat?

YES ()

NO (/)

c) Do you believe that the marine environment is cleaner than it was in 2000?

YES (✓)

NO ()

d) Do you believe that we, in the Port Macquarie area, should employ shark management strategies? (Noting there are currently no strategies in place)

YES ()

NO (/)

Measures to prevent shark attacks and fatalities:

Please number according to your priority.

a) Invest in preventative technology such as sonar shark shield technology or similar to protect surfers.

Comment:

b) Drum baits, 500 metres to 1 kilometre offshore, with anchor and chain with hooks to lure them away from beaches (patrolled by professional fishermen). This practice is currently used in Queensland.

Comment: NO

c) Extend shark nets to all popular beaches. Currently netting only occurs from Wollongong to Newcastle. This could be combined with drum baits currently used in Queensland.

Comment: NO

d) Aircraft or drone surveillance over popular beaches.

Comment: YES

e) Tag and track problematic sharks.

Comment: YES

f) Shark cull to reduce overall numbers.

Comment: NO

g) Cull only the problematic sharks.

Comment: NO

h) Remove protection of great white shark species.

Comment: NO

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YES (✓)

NO ()

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YES (✓)

NO ()

c) Do you believe that the marine environment is cleaner than it was in 2000?

YES (✓)

NO ()

d) Do you believe that we, in the Port Macquarie area, should employ shark management strategies? (Noting there are currently no strategies in place)

YES (✓)

NO ()

Measures to prevent shark attacks and fatalities:

Please number according to your priority.

- 8) **a)** Invest in preventative technology such as sonar shark shield technology or similar to protect surfers.

Comment:

- 3) **b)** Drum baits, 500 metres to 1 kilometre offshore, with anchor and chain with hooks to lure them away from beaches (patrolled by professional fishermen). This practice is currently used in Queensland.

Comment:

- 5) **c)** Extend shark nets to all popular beaches. Currently netting only occurs from Wollongong to Newcastle. This could be combined with drum baits currently used in Queensland.

Comment:

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Comment:

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NO ()

c) Do you believe that the marine environment is cleaner than it was in 2000?

YES (✓)

NO ()

d) Do you believe that we, in the Port Macquarie area, should employ shark management strategies? (Noting there are currently no strategies in place)

YES (✓)

NO ()

Measures to prevent shark attacks and fatalities:

Please number according to your priority.

a) Invest in preventative technology such as sonar shark shield technology or similar to protect surfers.

Comment: ~~4~~ 1

b) Drum baits, 500 metres to 1 kilometre offshore, with anchor and chain with hooks to lure them away from beaches (patrolled by professional fishermen). This practice is currently used in Queensland.

Comment: 4

c) Extend shark nets to all popular beaches. Currently netting only occurs from Wollongong to Newcastle. This could be combined with drum baits currently used in Queensland.

Comment: 5

d) Aircraft or drone surveillance over popular beaches.

Comment: 2

e) Tag and track problematic sharks.

Comment: 3

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YES ()

NO (✓)

b) Do you think that employing various shark management strategies throughout the Hastings area will have an effect on shark numbers, behaviour and habitat?

YES (x)

NO ()

c) Do you believe that the marine environment is cleaner than it was in 2000?

YES (x)

NO ()

d) Do you believe that we, in the Port Macquarie area, should employ shark management strategies? (Noting there are currently no strategies in place)

YES (x)

NO ()

Measures to prevent shark attacks and fatalities:

Please number according to your priority.

(2)

a) Invest in preventative technology such as sonar shark shield technology or similar to protect surfers.

Comment:

(4)

b) Drum baits, 500 metres to 1 kilometre offshore, with anchor and chain with hooks to lure them away from beaches (patrolled by professional fishermen). This practice is currently used in Queensland.

Comment:

(5)

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Comment:

(1)

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YES (✓)

NO ()

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YES ()

NO (✓)

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Comment:

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YES (✓)

NO ()

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YES (✓)

NO ()

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YES (✓)

NO ()

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Comment:

b) Drum baits, 500 metres to 1 kilometre offshore, with anchor and chain with hooks to lure them away from beaches (patrolled by professional fishermen). This practice is currently used in Queensland. 2

Comment:

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YES (✓)

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YES (✓)

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YES (✓)

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YES (✓)

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YES ()

NO (✓)

Measures to prevent shark attacks and fatalities:

Please number according to your priority.

①

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Comment:

⑦

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Comment:

⑤

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Comment:

②

d) Aircraft or drone surveillance over popular beaches.

Comment:

③

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Comment:

④

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Comment:

⑥

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⑧

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NO ()

c) Do you believe that the marine environment is cleaner than it was in 2000?

YES ()

NO ()

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YES ()

NO ()

Measures to prevent shark attacks and fatalities:

Please number according to your priority.

a) Invest in preventative technology such as sonar shark shield technology or similar to protect surfers.

Comment: 10

b) Drum baits, 500 metres to 1 kilometre offshore, with anchor and chain with hooks to lure them away from beaches (patrolled by professional fishermen). This practice is currently used in Queensland.

Comment: 5

c) Extend shark nets to all popular beaches. Currently netting only occurs from Wollongong to Newcastle. This could be combined with drum baits currently used in Queensland.

Comment: 0

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Comment: 10

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Comment:

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Comment:

- 3 d) Aircraft or drone surveillance over popular beaches.

Comment:

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Comment:

- 1 g) Cull only the problematic sharks.

Comment:

- 4 h) Remove protection of great white shark species.

Comment:

PMLBC Submission to Shark Management Inquiry

The NSW Parliament has called for Submissions for the Inquiry into Management of Sharks in NSW Waters.

This is a result of 12 Attacks and 2 fatalities on the NSW Coast since January 2015.

The terms of reference are:

1. The impact of shark attacks on tourism and related industries.
2. Changes in shark numbers, behaviour or habitat.
3. Adequacy of management strategies.
4. Measures to prevent attacks by sharks, including strategies adopted in other jurisdictions.
5. Other related matters.

In an attempt to allow members of the Port Macquarie Longboard Club have a say into matters that this inquiry may deal with, following are some suggestions and/or ideas, in no particular order or bias. If you do not share the same opinions/suggestions, you are welcome to make your own submission(s) to investmentindustry@parliament.nsw.gov.au

a) Do you think shark attacks will affect tourism and surf-related businesses in Port Macquarie?

YES ()

NO ()

b) Do you think that employing various shark management strategies throughout the Hastings area will have an effect on shark numbers, behaviour and habitat?

YES ()

NO ()

c) Do you believe that the marine environment is cleaner than it was in 2000?

YES ()

NO ()

d) Do you believe that we, in the Port Macquarie area, should employ shark management strategies? (Noting there are currently no strategies in place)

YES ()

NO ()

Measures to prevent shark attacks and fatalities:

Please number according to your priority.

- 2 a) Invest in preventative technology such as sonar shark shield technology or similar to protect surfers.

Comment:

- 3 b) Drum baits, 500 metres to 1 kilometre offshore, with anchor and chain with hooks to lure them away from beaches (patrolled by professional fishermen). This practice is currently used in Queensland.

Comment:

- 1 c) Extend shark nets to all popular beaches. Currently netting only occurs from Wollongong to Newcastle. This could be combined with drum baits currently used in Queensland.

Comment:

- 4 d) Aircraft or drone surveillance over popular beaches.

Comment:

- 8 e) Tag and track problematic sharks.

Comment:

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