



A tiger shark is dragged out to sea after being caught. Credit: Sharon Smith

Smart drum lines: contractor to be paid \$6000 a day to catch sharks in WA's South West

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January 27, 2019 3:00AM

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A contractor will be paid more than \$6000 a day to catch, tag and tow away sharks during the McGowan Government's 15-month trial of non-lethal, so-called smart drum lines in the South West, which will start next month.

The Sunday Times can today reveal key details of the contract awarded to company Fairfield Pty Ltd to operate the trial, which will cost a total of \$3.84 million, in a bid to prevent shark attacks off Gracetown.

Unless the weather is too rough, the contractor will be required to set 10 baited drum

Fisheries Minister Dave Kelly vowed the trial would start before the end of February after crew from Fairfield – which has extensive marine research, vessel management and commercial fishing experience – had finished training to ensure they complied with guidelines for a scientific assessment of the technology.

