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IN AUSTRALIA, SHARKS NOW TWEET WHEN THEY APPROACH THE BEACH

 WORK & LIFESTYLE

Surf Life Saving Western Australia is attaching trackers to local sharks, which send out a warning tweet whenever they come into close proximity with the beach.

Shark attacks in Australia are still a worry for beachgoers, especially following the recent deaths of surfer [Chris Boyd](#) in November and bodyboarder [Zac Young](#) shortly after. In the past, we've seen innovators in the country develop swimsuits that allegedly deter shark attacks, but now beach safety nonprofit [Surf Life Saving Western Australia](#) is attaching trackers to local sharks, which send out a warning tweet whenever they come into close proximity with the beach.

Teaming up with the [Department of Fisheries](#) for Western Australia, the charity is harnessing the existing Shark Monitoring Network to help locate white sharks. The species migrates long distances in short spaces of time, making it hard to know when they might be near to the coast. Trained shark cage tourism operators, who lure in the animals with [berley](#) to give spectators a closer look, are being tasked with tagging the animals with small acoustic transmitters while they're present, as well as logging their size, species and location. The signals given off by these devices can then be picked up by receivers located in the seas surrounding Western Australia beaches. The data is then delivered almost instantly to both life guards and residents through the medium of Twitter. Citizens can keep up-to-date with shark locations by following [@SLSWA](#).



Surf Life Saving WA @SLSWA · 2h

SW Westpac Lifesaver Helicopter sighted 1m hammerhead shark 500m offshore @ Bunker Bay, tracking north. Lifeguards have been notified & the beach remains open.

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Surf Life Saving WA @SLSWA · 2h

Fisheries advise 2m shark sighted 500m offshore from Narabup Cafe, Margaret River "White Elephant" at 09:05 tracking south. Reported 09:24.

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Surf Life Saving WA @SLSWA · 20h

SW Westpac Lifesaver Helicopter has spotted a 2.5m shark, unknown species 50m offshore on the west side of Injinup Point

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Rather than leaning on expensive helicopter surveillance and potentially unreliable human sightings, the system instead gets the sharks to simply announce themselves before they get too close to the beach. It will also help scientists to better understand the migration routines of the animals. Are there other species that could be tracked through the social network platform?

22nd January 2014

Website: www.surflifesavingwa.com.au

Contact: www.surflifesavingwa.com.au/about-us/contact-us