Shark control

For the safety of swimmers, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries implements a shark control program along our Gold Coast beaches.

Shark control equipment is set up on beaches patrolled by lifesavers or lifeguards.

Facts about the shark control equipment

- The equipment consists of drum lines and nets.
- It was introduced here in 1962.
- It is designed to deter sharks more than two metres long.
- There has never been a fatal attack on a Gold Coast beach with shark control equipment in use since 1962.

Tips for swimmers

- Always swim at patrolled beaches and between the flags.
- Leave the water immediately if a shark is sighted.
- Never swim alone.
- Never swim at dawn, dusk or at night.
- Never swim when bleeding.
- Do not swim in murky waters.
- Do not swim near schools of fish.
- Do not swim near canals or near a river mouth.
- Do not swim near, or interfere with shark control equipment.

We need your help

Occasionally other marine life, such as whales, dolphins or turtles, gets caught in shark control equipment.

If you come across entangled sea life or damaged equipment call the 24 hour emergency hotline: 1800 806 891.

For more information visit the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries website.

Related information

- Beach and water safety

Jump to key information

Key Information

- Brochures, fact sheets & reports
  - Protecting yourself from dangerous aquatic organisms

- External links
  - Department of Agriculture and Fisheries - Shark Control Program