

Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on shark mitigation and deterrent measures

Shark control programs such as mesh nets and drumlines result in an unacceptable level of bycatch of threatened marine wildlife. These programs impact not just critically endangered sharks such as the grey nurse shark, but also dolphins, whales, rays, turtles and many other threatened and protected species. We ask that the Inquiry carefully consider the impact to Australia's precious marine life when considering shark mitigation and deterrent measures.

Management actions supported by sound scientific research and monitoring which do not harm precious marine wildlife or humans, such as use of shark spotters, community education programs and drones are long term solutions. Local councils and Surf LifeSaving Australia can assist state and federal government to improve procedures and develop effective strategies to keep people safer at the beach.

Australia has a legislative responsibility to protect threatened marine species and ecosystems.

Continuing to harm marine species and lose biodiversity in order to protect humans from sharks is a knee-jerk political reaction, not a scientifically supported solution.

Sincerely

Holly North

01 March 2017