



If a shark is spotted

If a potentially dangerous shark (over 2 m in length) is spotted near swimmers:

- the drone will fly lower and follow the shark
- lifesavers and lifeguards will assess the level of risk
- if there is a high risk, a warning alarm will sound and the water will be evacuated.

Using drones to monitor sharks

Benefits

- Drones provide a birds-eye view of the ocean and what's happening beneath the surface—compared to traditional monitoring by lifesavers and lifeguards from beach towers or water craft.
- Drones are more cost effective than other beach aerial monitoring via helicopter flights.
- There is no impact on marine life.
- Real-time monitoring means lifesavers and lifeguards can respond rapidly if a shark or other marine threat is spotted.
- Drones improve overall beach safety through monitoring marine threats or assisting with rescues.

Limitations

- Drones cannot operate in poor weather (strong winds, rain or storms).
- Drones cannot operate in restricted airspace—this impacts some beaches near the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast airports.
- Drone monitoring requires highly skilled operators and is labour intensive.

Looking to the future

The SharkSmart drone trial will be scientifically monitored to determine its effectiveness.

The evaluation of these initial trials in southern Queensland locations will help inform how the trial may be extended to other Shark Control Program locations in Queensland.

Do your part

Help us deliver an effective drone trial:

- stay outside the drone take-off and landing area on the beach
- avoid interrupting the drone pilots while they work
- follow the instructions of lifesavers and lifeguards if a potentially dangerous shark is spotted.

Remember to be SharkSmart every time you are on or in the water:

SWim between the flags at patrolled beaches and check signage

Have a buddy and look out for each other

Avoid swimming at dawn or dusk

Reduce risk, avoid schools of bait fish or diving birds

Keep fish waste and food scraps out of the water where people swim

Swim in clear water and away from fishers

For more information visit qld.gov.au/SharkSmart, email scp@daf.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23.