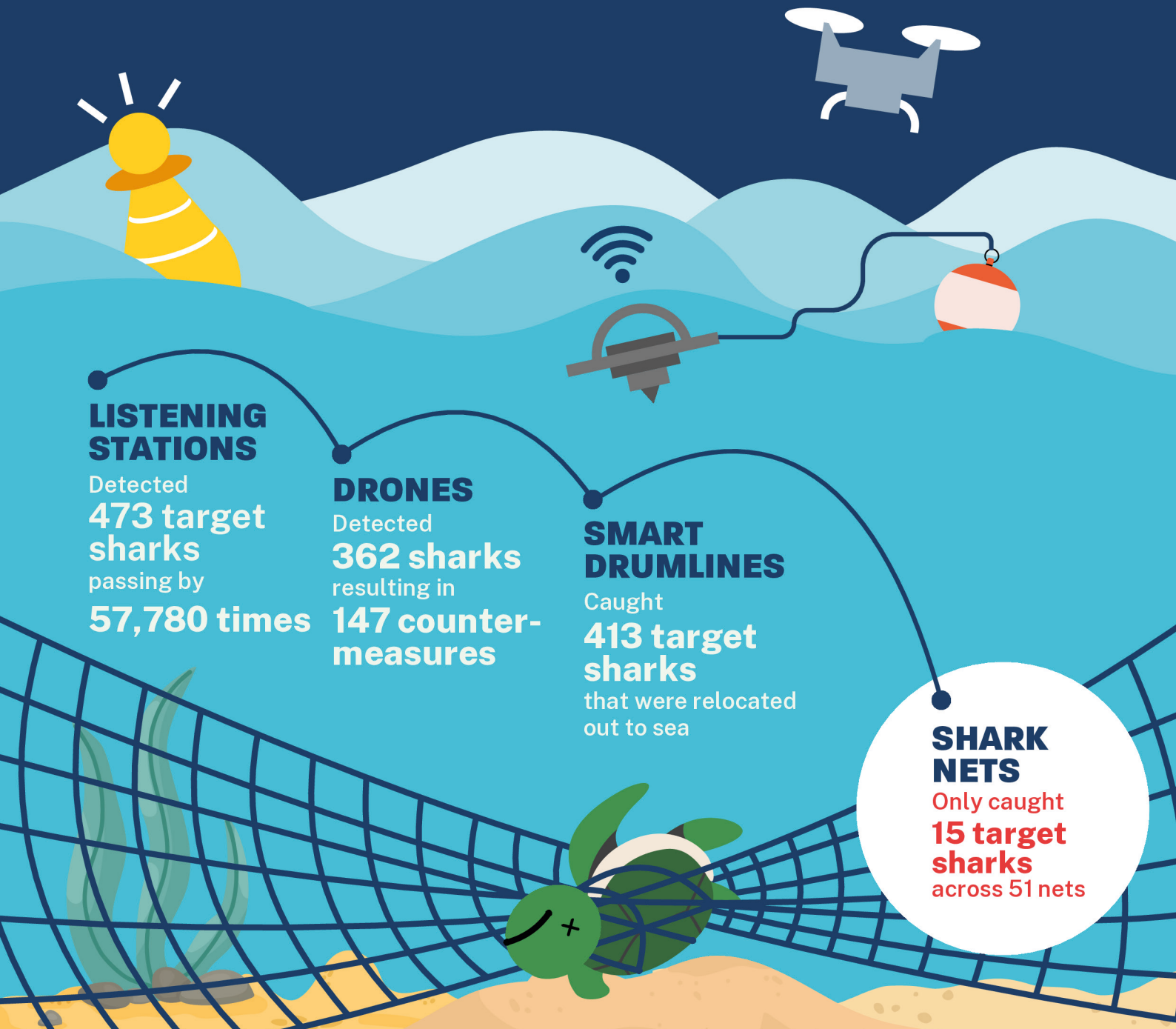


# MODERN TECHNOLOGIES ARE ALREADY WORKING FOR SHARK SAFETY IN NSW

IN 2023/24



Every ocean beach with a shark net already has alternatives such as drones, listening stations and SMART drumlines in place. These alternatives have been tried and tested for years and are supported by scientific experts. They work alongside surveillance from Surf Life Saving and a Shark SMART community education program. In addition, people can use personal shark deterrent devices.

**SHARK NETS ARE REDUNDANT AND CAN BE REMOVED.**

# ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS



## DRONE SURVEILLANCE

Drones are the cutting edge of beach safety. Surf Life Saving NSW is already using drones at 50 beaches under the Shark Management Strategy, and more are used by local clubs. With great visibility at NSW beaches, lifesavers use drones to detect risks and prevent incidents. Additionally, drones can sound alarms and drop personal flotation devices to swimmers in peril, mitigating more common ocean risks like drowning.

## SHARK LISTENING STATIONS

Shark listening stations detect signals from tagged sharks that come within 500m of the station. When detected, the station sends a real-time alert to lifeguards and the SharkSmart app, allowing a quick safety response. The stations are active 24 hours a day.

## PERSONAL SHARK DETERRENTS

Personal shark deterrents emit an electromagnetic field that sharks find uncomfortable and avoid. Deterrents can be worn by a person or attached to a board or boat. Certain products have been independently tested on great white, tiger and bull sharks with demonstrated effectiveness. Western Australia has been offering \$200 rebates for these devices since May 2017.

## PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

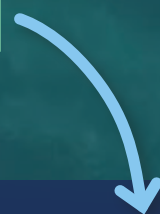
The NSW Government launched the Shark Smart program to raise awareness about shark safety. The risk of shark incidents is reduced by an informed decision-making public who understand the situations and conditions which increase their individual risk.

## SMART DRUMLINES

Shark Management Alert in Real Time (SMART) drumlines are baited hooks fitted with transceivers to alert a contractor when the bait is taken, allowing real time response and reduced mortality. Non-target animals are immediately released, and target sharks are tagged and relocated further away.

While SMART drumlines are less lethal than shark nets, they can injure animals and are a welfare concern.<sup>1</sup> SMART drumlines and shark nets are currently being used simultaneously, amplifying the impact on our marine life. SMART drumlines are a step in the right direction but only if they are replacing nets. However, sharks can be tagged and tracked without the use of SMART drumlines.

**IT'S TIME TO RETIRE  
SHARK NETS  
FOR GOOD**



## SHARK CHAMPIONS WITH HSI AND AMCS

This work was funded by the Shark Conservation Fund, a philanthropic collaborative pooling expertise and resources to meet the threats facing the world's sharks and rays. The Shark Conservation Fund is a project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sharksmart.nsw.gov.au/technology-trials-and-research#drumline>

IMAGE: Rex et al., CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons