



Promulgated in terms of the KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board Act, 2008 (Act No. 5 of 2008)

1A Herrwood Drive
Umhlanga 4320
Private Bag 2
Umhlanga 4320
South Africa

Tel: 031 566 0400
Int: +27-31 566 0400
Fax: 031 566 0493
Int: +27-31 566 0493
www.shark.co.za

Sardine run 2021

30th June

On Tuesday the 29th of June 2021, the KZN Sharks Board conducted a sardine observation flight through to Hluleka Reserve in the Eastern Cape waters.

The first sign of sardine activity was between Virginia and the Durban Beach Front. These were thin pockets scattered throughout the area on a slightly deeper line without any predator activity. These particular pockets were moving south at midday but as we know they do change direction when it suits them. There were three successful nettings on the Durban beaches.

As we continued south to the area between Umdoni Point and Sezela, there were decent size shoals of sardines seen scattered throughout the area just behind the backline and in the surf zone. Some of these pockets were being harassed by sharks and gamefish. It was reported that Yellowfin tuna were seen feeding on one of the pockets very close to the rocks at Umdoni Point. There was one net landed at Sezela, but the other attempts were unsuccessful. There were also large pods of Bottlenose dolphin seen in this area. We then continued to see small pockets in the surf zone and back line through to Hibberdene. The next concentration of sardines was between Leisure Bay and Port Edward where approximately 70 small pockets were seen one to two kilometers offshore, all moving north, with no visible predator activity.

The next sign of activity was in the Eastern Cape waters between Mkambathi and Luputhana. Here there were numerous pods of Bottlenose and Common dolphins together with scattered gannet activity, all moving north. Most of this action was slightly deeper than usual for this area. Further south between Sugarloaf Rock and Hluleka there were also large concentrations of around 1500 Bottlenose but no sign of Common dolphins. There were also thin pockets of sardines/baitfish visible on the surface in this area.

The Sharks Board will continue to closely monitor sardine activity and remove or replace shark safety gear as required. Please confirm the bathing status with the lifeguards on duty before entering the water.

Acting HOD: Operations
GREG THOMPSON