



KWAZULU-NATAL
SHARKS BOARD
Maritime Centre of Excellence

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

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Sardine Run 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

12th June 2020

On Wednesday, the 10th of June we received a report that there was concentrated sardine activity in the area between Grosvenor and the Mthentu River. This activity was accompanied by associated predators including lots of big sharks seen close inshore.

The KZN Sharks Board then conducted a sardine patrol flight the following morning on Thursday the 11th of June. During this flight there was scattered thin pockets of sardine's/bait fish spotted all the way between Warner Beach and Port Edward, but the majority of this activity was further offshore. The area where all the activity was seen the day before was very quiet with no sightings at all. When we arrived at Waterfall Bluff, we started to see shoals of sardines, close inshore which is unusual in this area. This activity continued right through to Mbotyi, Manteku, Mntafufu River mouth, Poenskop, Port St Johns, Mngazana River mouth, Brazen Head, Mpande River Mouth and as far south as Rame Head which is where we turned back. Throughout this area we saw hundreds of Gannets diving into concentrated shoals of sardines and these birds could still be seen further south towards Coffee Bay. I am almost certain that the sardine activity continued further south from where we turned.

All of the shoals seen were in close proximity to the surf zone and as previously stated this is unusual for this area. The water visibility was all so very good which made spotting the shoals that much easier. Today we have a fresh south westerly and associated cold front which has come through from the Cape into KZN so hopefully this system will help push the shoals through to the KZN waters. Once again, we will just have to wait and see what happens and hope for the best.

Due to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 National lockdown and in accordance with Lockdown Legislation and Regulations, all Shark Safety Gear was removed on the 24th of March. We have not been given a date as to when the beaches will be opened. Only then will we plan the installation of shark safety gear.

Acting HOD: Operations

GREG THOMPSON

