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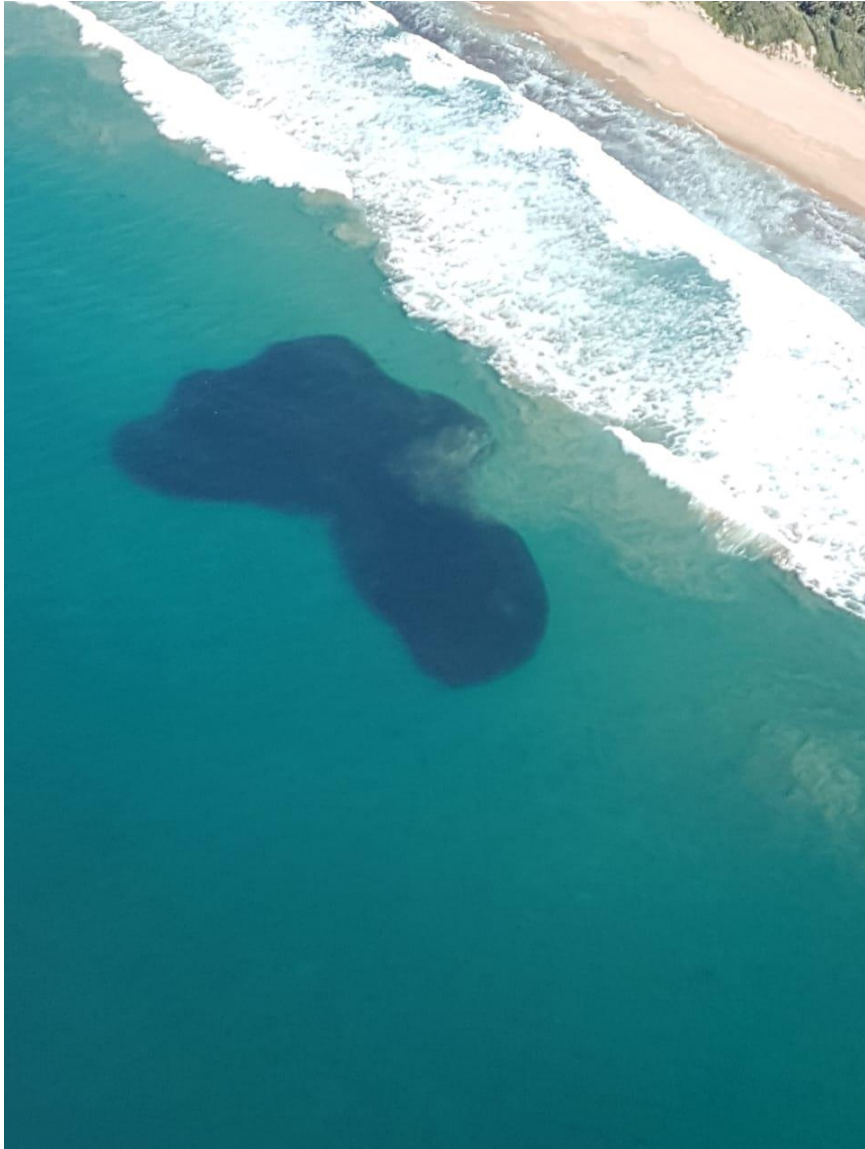
Sardine Run 2018 Media Update Thursday 18th June 2018

There was plenty of sardine action yesterday Sunday 17th June at Ramsgate and Margate beach on the lower south coast of KZN. Sardines were netted for most of the day with each net averaging around 500 crates of sardines per net. The biggest net taken yielded 1000 crates which is a massive haul for one net. Netters have however been having problems with sharks biting through their nets in an attempt to get at the fish inside.

Activity this morning is very intense in the area stretching from Park Rynie through to Ifafa with many large shoals of sardines visible close to the shore. These shoals are accompanied by hundreds of sharks which are also clearly visible from the air. Smaller pockets occur from Ifafa through to Margate.

A number of nets of sardines have been taken in the Pennington area and judging by what was seen from the air this is certainly the best run we have experienced in many years. We expect this activity to move northwards over the next 24 hours possibly to the Karridene/Warner beach area and we may well even see sardines arriving off the Durban beachfront by this coming weekend. Reliable reports from the Eastern Cape is that there are large shoals of sardines in the Mbashe river area. It however remains to be seen if these will continue northwards to KZN shores over the coming weeks.

Shark safety gear has been removed from the beaches from Isipingo to Port Edward. The Sharks Board appeals to members of the public to exercise caution should they enter the water due to the high numbers of sharks accompanying these sardine shoals. The Board will continue to monitor the movement of the shoals and will manage the shark safety gear in consultation with the coastal municipalities that are affected.



Sardine Shoal off Mtwalume – G. Thompson -KZN Sharks Board

**Mike Anderson-Reade
Head of Operations**