



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**

**24<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

The KZN Sharks Board conducted a sardine patrol flight on Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June, through to the Hole in the Wall in the Eastern Cape.

There were large shoals of sardines sighted between Scottburgh and Mtwalume, but most of these pockets were scattered and not the solid concentrations of shoals seen over the past few weeks.

Throughout the Eastern Cape there were large numbers of dolphins and gannets seen, with the biggest concentration of gannets sighted at Hole in the Wall. There were no visible signs of sardines, only the associated predators that follow the shoals. Which often happens when the pockets move offshore into deeper water.

Although we did not fly North, the information we received was that there had been sardines sighted on a deeper line between Umhlanga Rocks and Salt Rock. It seems that once again the sardines have reached the Bluff area and moved out onto a deeper line missing the Durban beach front, for now. This can change overnight though and often happens when the fish return south. There is still a good chance they will end up on the Durban beach front.

On Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of June most of the activity was reported to be between Bazley and Mtwalume where two nets were reported to have been successful with fish. There were also reports of hundreds of sharks spotted in this area and in the afternoon the gannets arrived again in their hundreds. This has not occurred in KZN in many years and is a sight to behold. There were also reports of netting taking place at Umgababa.

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 24<sup>th</sup> 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**