



Black-Tip Shark | *Carcharhinus tilstoni*, *C. sorrah*

A Snapshot of the Offshore Net & Line Fishery

Area

The fishery covers the area from high water mark at the coast, seaward to the outer boundary of the Australian Fishing Zone, between the Queensland and the Western Australia maritime borders.

Licences

There are 17 licences in the fishery. Each licence had a number of net fishing and longline fishing days allocated to it on 1 July 2005. These fishing days are both temporarily and permanently transferable to another licence holder in the fishery.

Gear

Surface set nets are the most commonly used method to catch shark, although longlines are a permitted gear type. Each licence allows 2 km of net and 20 km on longline.

Catch

The catch is primarily Black tip shark although several other species are harvested in smaller quantities. A significant portion of most licensee's income is also derived from Grey mackerel.

Product Form

Fresh and frozen trunks, fresh and frozen fillets. Most of a shark is utilised in one product form or another.

Markets

Northern Territory shark is sold Australia wide and internationally.

Season

There is no closed season for the shark fishery, however best catches normally occur from March to November.

Management

The fishery is managed under NT legislation by the NT Government on behalf of a Joint Authority. The Authority consists of the Federal and NT Ministers responsible for Fisheries.

General

Fishermen base their operations around purposely fitted out vessels that are designed specifically for the use of surface nets or longline. Fishing usually occurs at night when sharks are generally more active and move to the surface to feed.

Vessels often spend considerable time at sea during each fishing voyage.

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