

Public record pursuant to s39(1) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Proposal Title: Continuation of non-lethal trial of SMART drumline for an additional 12-months

Proposal Location: Offshore from the Shire of Augusta Margaret River, Gracetown, south-west Australia

Case Number: CMS17815

Date referral received: 24-04-2020

Date more information received:

Referrer: Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Proponent:

Potential significant effects:

There are potential impacts on **Marine Fauna** through hooking, entanglement and/or interaction with the drumlines.

Public comment on referral information:

Do not assess:	3
Assess: a) Referral information	0
b) Environmental review - no public review	0
c) Public environmental review	16
<i>Total submissions:</i>	19

Decision: s. 39A – Not Assess

Referral Examined, preliminary investigations and inquiries conducted. Proposal not to be assessed under Part IV of the EP Act – No advice given.

Explanation of decision:

The proposal is to continue to undertake a non-lethal trial of 10 SMART drumlines for a further 12 months so that the proponent can collect more data on the sharks being caught, tagged and monitored to enable a science-based assessment on the technology.

The proposal is limited in geographical extent to an 11.5 kilometre stretch of coast offshore from Gracetown.

The EPA notes that data from the initial trial found the risk to marine mammals to be low with no records of entanglements. Shark mortalities were also recorded to be low.

The EPA considers that the likely environmental effects of the proposal are not so significant as to warrant formal assessment because of the minor and localised placement of the drumlines, and the extent and consequence of the predicted impacts. The continuation of the trial includes the additional tagging and tracking of tiger and shortfin mako sharks. The EPA is of the view that the potential impacts of the continuation of the trial can be adequately managed in accordance with the referral documentation and the proponent's management and mitigation measures.

Other statutory processes relevant to the proposal include an application to Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions for action within a marine park (*Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*) under Regulation 89 and 4.

Appeals: This decision is appealable. Appeals close 25-05-2020. Appeals are administered by the Office of the Appeals Convenor.



Dr Tom Hatton

CHAIRMAN

Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority

Date: 8 May 2020