

Media Release:

09.08.11

Caution Around Waterways

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport (NRETAS) is advising the public to exercise caution around waterways as warmer temperatures increase the activity of marine crocodiles and jellyfish.

The discovery of a dead dolphin with a significant bite mark, believed to be from a large tiger shark, at Lee Point beach and a recent report to the NRETAS Wild Watch Hotline of a large shark seen near Mindil Beach are also causes for added caution. The public are advised to be aware of the potential risk of sharks and be cautious in nearby waters.

While the 2-metre humpback dolphin may have died before the shark-bite, based on the size of the dolphin's wound, it is possible that the bite may have come from a tiger shark approximately 16-18 feet long, though it is not unknown whether the wound came from a single bite.

NRETAS has alerted local organisations that frequent the Top End beaches and ocean, such as the Darwin Sailing Club, the Darwin Trailer Boat Club, the Darwin Ski Club and the Darwin Surf Life Saving Club.

To report any shark sightings call the Fish Watch Hotline on 1800 891 136.

To report other marine animals such as turtles, dolphins and dugongs in need of help call the Wild Watch Hotline on 1800 453 941.

Ends

Issued: 5.45pm Tuesday, 9 August 2011