

Grey Nurse Shark Watch



Dive into conservation

Grey Nurse Shark Watch is a community grey nurse shark photographic identification monitoring program. It is designed to capture data on grey nurse shark numbers, movements and distribution during different stages of their life cycle throughout their range in both Queensland and New South Wales marine regions. It will do this by monitoring individual grey nurse sharks, which can be identified by their unique spot patterns, over time.

Having been hunted almost to the point of extinction in the 1950s, the Australian east coast population of grey nurse shark is listed as Critically Endangered under the Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species. Crucial information about the grey nurse shark is still unknown and is needed to help ensure the population is not at risk of further decline. You can help to monitor this species, and contribute to its ultimate recovery.



The photographic identification monitoring program is designed to monitor the recovery of the Australian east coast population of grey nurse sharks and to assist in the identification of critical areas for sharks in different stages of their life cycle. This program aims to ultimately lead to the improved conservation of this important species.

Photographs submitted by you will contribute to a national database on the grey nurse shark that will be shared with stakeholders, researchers and managers. Public access to data will also be facilitated, to allow Grey Nurse Shark Watch contributors to see their own sightings as well as those of others.

Support for this project has been generously provided by Australian Capital Equity, the Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management Ltd, the Department of Environment and Resource Management, Fauna and Flora International Australia and The University of Queensland.



How can you help?

Opportunistic encounters: Are you a diver or fisher who occasionally encounters grey nurse sharks? If you have a good quality side-on photo of any of these sharks, you can submit your sighting and/or photographs at any time during the year using a simple on-line form.

Scheduled surveys: Are you a regular diver-photographer who would like to participate in Grey Nurse Shark Watch? Can you commit to a more intense survey at your favourite local site between July/August and January/February? If so, you can nominate yourself as a site custodian on ReefCheck's website.

- **Survey 1:** July/August 2011
- **Survey 2:** January/February 2012

More details on how to register as a site custodian, the methods manual, uploading images and the Grey Nurse Shark Watch database, are available on Reef Check's website: www.reefcheckaustralia.org.



Clear, side-on photos like this one will allow Grey Nurse Sharks to be identified by their unique spot patterns.

For more information on Grey Nurse Shark Watch please contact Sue Sargent on 07 4181 2999 or at sue.sargent@fauna-flora.org.

