



MAFRI Research & Education

Travel bug hits again!

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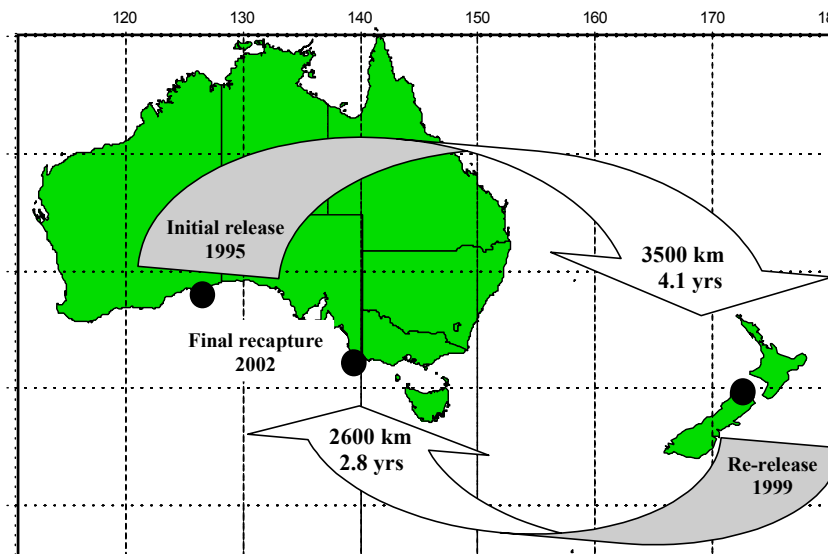
A tagged school shark has just returned from a 7-year sojourn to New Zealand. The female school shark was tagged and released in the Great Australian Bight during October 1995 as part of a study into the movement and growth of school and gummy sharks undertaken by the Marine and Freshwater Resources Institute, Victoria.

During December 1999, having travelled over 3500 km in 4.1 years, the shark was caught by a commercial shark fisher between the North and South Islands of New

South Australia, some 2600 km from the New Zealand point of release.

When originally tagged the shark measured 1434 mm and was considered a mature adult animal. During seven years at liberty the shark grew to be approximately 1600 mm in total length.

This shark's wanderings are not atypical with the current Trans-Tasman tally at 27 New Zealand tagged school



The trans-Tasman wanderings of female school shark "D0048"

Zealand. The fisher quickly recorded details on tag number (D0048), species, sex and length and returned the lively tagged school shark to the water.

"D0048" then continued to ramble across the Southern Ocean for another 2.8 years before being re-captured a second time during October 2002 in waters off Beachport,

sharks recaptured in Australian waters and 12 Australian tagged school sharks recaptured from New Zealand waters. Tagged sharks, as in the case of "D0048", provide researchers with information on movement, growth and mortality. To continue our ever expanding understanding of sharks in southern Australia we seek your support in reporting accurate details of any tagged shark using our freecall shark hotline 1800 652598.

Of the 13,000 sharks tagged during the past 10 years about 1,000 of these have been injected with the calcium-marking dye oxytetracycline as part of an age validation study. If in the event of capturing a tagged shark please keep the vertebral column/backbone frozen and contact Lauren Brown on the shark hotline number for further instruction.

If you wish to incorporate tagging as part of your fishing practices please contact the VICTAG coordinator Adrian Arkinstall on 1800 677620.

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