

Sydney Beach Shark Warning After Sighting

August 23, 2025

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Authorities have urged swimmers and surfers to remain cautious along Sydney's southeast coast after a shark was spotted near a popular swimming area. The alert was issued late Friday after reports confirmed the presence of a large shark off Jibbon Beach, located within the Sutherland Shire.

The initial sighting occurred around 4 p.m. when beachgoers reported a shark moving close to shore near Jibbon Head. Within the same time frame, marine activity in the area drew further concern after witnesses noticed unusual disturbances in the water. The Sutherland

Shire Council confirmed the sighting and issued a public advisory, urging residents and visitors to avoid entering the water until conditions are deemed safe.

The discovery has sparked concerns for public safety, particularly as Sydney beaches are still experiencing strong visitor numbers during late summer. Lifesavers and council officials are closely monitoring the area to determine whether the shark continues to patrol the coastline.

Local authorities stressed that while shark sightings are not uncommon in New South Wales waters, confirmed visual encounters warrant swift precautionary action. “Public safety is our priority. Whenever a shark is spotted near swimming areas, we immediately advise beach users to exit the water and remain alert,” a council spokesperson said.

Surf Life Saving NSW confirmed that crews have been patrolling the surrounding beaches to watch for further shark activity. Drones and patrol boats are also expected to be used over the weekend to provide aerial and offshore monitoring.

While beaches have not been officially closed at this stage, caution is being urged. Beachgoers were reminded to follow warning signs, listen to lifeguard instructions, and avoid entering the water if advisories remain active.

Marine experts note that shark movements closer to the shore are often linked to feeding habits and seasonal migration patterns. In some cases, sharks follow schools of fish or approach coastal areas where marine life activity is heightened.

Friday’s incident was reported at the same time a whale carcass was found nearby, a factor known to attract sharks into coastal waters. Marine officials explained that large carcasses can draw predators from considerable distances, creating higher risks for swimmers and surfers.

The council issued a set of precautionary guidelines to reduce the risk of shark encounters:

Swim only in patrolled areas where lifeguards are present.

Avoid swimming at dawn, dusk, or nighttime when sharks are most active.

Do not enter the water near schools of fish, seals, or whale remains.

Refrain from swimming with bleeding wounds, as sharks are highly sensitive to blood in the water.

Pay attention to posted warning signs and follow official instructions.

Shark encounters remain relatively rare, but authorities have reminded the public of recent incidents in New South Wales. Earlier this year, multiple beaches were temporarily closed after sightings near the Illawarra region. In 2022, a fatal shark attack occurred near Little Bay, highlighting the unpredictable nature of these events.

While such cases are isolated, officials continue to balance public access to beaches with safety measures. Modern monitoring technologies and rapid-response teams have reduced risks, though caution is always encouraged.

Despite Friday's warning, experts stress that shark attacks remain statistically rare. Millions of people swim safely along Australian beaches every year. The alert is being treated as a precaution, with continued surveillance in place until the threat has passed.

Residents and visitors are advised to check local council updates and Surf Life Saving NSW alerts before entering the water this weekend.