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## Ghost Shark Uncrewed Submarine Spotted at Fleet Base East

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Australia is advancing its maritime defence capabilities through development of autonomous underwater systems, showcased recently at Fleet Base East alongside HMAS Adelaide during Exercise Talisman Sabre in July 2025. These efforts highlight the nation's commitment to enhancing intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance (ISR), and strike capabilities amid increasing regional security challenges.

Although no public confirmation exists of a specific vehicle named “Ghost Shark,” Australian defence companies such as Anduril Australia are expanding their role in developing uncrewed systems in partnership with the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and the Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG). These collaborations focus on creating versatile, stealthy autonomous platforms capable of long-endurance operations with modular payloads tailored to various mission needs.

Rear Admiral Peter Quinn, Head of Navy Capability, has previously noted the strategic potential of autonomous underwater vehicles to provide a significant operational advantage. Government investments in autonomous systems form part of a broader multi-billion-dollar defence modernisation agenda aimed at countering emerging threats.

Shadow Defence Minister Angus Taylor has criticised the federal government for perceived delays in implementing broader defence reforms, cautioning that slow progress risks undermining Australia’s strategic edge in the Indo-Pacific region.

As tensions in the region escalate, Australia’s ongoing development and deployment of advanced autonomous maritime platforms remain critical to safeguarding national security, though details on specific programs and timelines remain largely confidential.