



# Shark Research

## What's happening?

**Marine Dynamics** and the **Dyer Island Conservation Trust** are studying the little-understood Great White Sharks in the Greater Dyer Island Area. From the current research, these animals appear far more interesting and complex than originally thought, and we wish to change the public's perception of these magnificent beasts.

South Africa was the first country to protect Great White Sharks, in 1991. They certainly need our protection: in the Benguela Ecosystem alone, 6.6 Million sharks are killed every year!



## Research

- Database of photographed dorsal fins.
- Identifying individuals' marks, scars, colouration, sex, size, etc.
- Ascertaining why the sharks use this area.
- Studying the behaviour of sharks in their natural environment and in the vicinity of shark-cage diving boats.
- Obtaining a population estimate.
- Wound healing capability

It has been established that there is no resident population of Great White Sharks in the Greater Dyer Island Area, but rather a transient population, each shark staying for 2-3 weeks at a time.

- Feb – Aug: In Shark Alley between Dyer Island & Geyser Rock
- Sept – Jan: In “Joubert se Dam” between Dyer Island and the mainland

## Latest

An acoustic tagging and tracking programme has begun to help us understand the sharks behaviour during the summer months.

Follow our shark blog on [www.dict.org.za](http://www.dict.org.za) Research is conducted by biologists and assistants aboard **Slashfin**, the vessel operated by **Marine Dynamics** and **Lwazi**, DICT's dedicated research boat.

