Tiger shark hooked next to swimmers

A shark fisher parks his ute illegally at the end of the Cottesloe groyne.

Little Timmy gets eaten because someone’s attracting Bruce with a slab of meat

A post on a fishing website by an enthusiastic fisherman warns of a backlash. He wrote last December of “an old male who pulled in two tigers at Floreat beach the other day”. “I have nothing against shark fishing, but there is a time and a place,” he wrote.

He questioned the wisdom of wearing an equaliser harness and using a game outfit at a popular swimming beach. “Maybe you’re pushing it a bit too hard!” he said.

“It’s not good for the image if Little Timmy gets eaten because someone’s attracting Bruce with a slab of meat.”

Fisheries says it is illegal to deposit blood or offal on Cottesloe beaches, and there is also a statewide ban on the use of berley containing mammal or bird products, with a penalty of up $100,000, except as bait or pellets.

The Department of Fisheries has received complaints regarding shark fishing from metropolitan and regional beaches, and where these complaints may involve illegal activity, they are investigated, the spokesman said.

The capture and landing of marine species, including sharks where fishing is permitted is legal, but fishers need to consider the concerns of other water users.

A social media group, known as Geraldton Shark Hunters, had posted images and videos of sharks caught off the Geraldton foreshore, in the centre of town. ABC News Geraldton reported on February 1.

They posted pictures of big sharks caught within metres of the local surf lifesaving club.

The ABC quoted club president Peter Nelson saying shark hunters were putting big baits in the water and fishing “about as close as you can get” to the popular swimming beach.

“If they do it regularly then I suppose the sharks get to realise that there’s free food in that area,” he said.

Fishers use kayaks to paddle off a rock groyne, usually at night, drop bait into the water, then return to the groyne to fish.

One of them, Callum Parker said the groyne near the city’s Geraldton’s town beach was an ideal place to catch a shark.

“It’s easy to get to, it’s nice and close to town and there’s plenty of sharks there,” he said.

When caught, sharks were taken into the main swimming beach.

Images posted on social media show a beached shark metres away from the local surf lifesaving club.

Expedition fires up leadership

Dr Fitzgerald said they learnt how to communicate with individuals and communities, taking into account their perspectives.

They mapped their strategies for their spheres of influence, identifying who they needed to connect with to achieve their personal vision and how best to make those connections.

Dr Fitzgerald aims to use her Antarctic experience to bring together neurotrauma researchers and patient outreach organisations.

Many is to generate a really vibrant neurotrauma research community, so I will be using every single skill that I learnt to achieve that,” she said.

The scientists went from a 40-degree day in Perth to minus 2 in Antarctica.

Dr Fitzgerald said she wore thermals and track pants under plastic waterproof pants plus three pairs of socks and rubber boots.

“I had several layers on the body and a waterproof jacket and I could still move – just,” she said.

“The hottest day was five degrees – that was lovely. “I went for a polar plunge in water that was minus 17. I had to walk in over pebbles in bare feet and that was the worst of it. I couldn’t feel my feet for 30 minutes.”

“The leadership training was fantastic. It surpassed expectations.

“We were totally cut off – there was no internet access, no TV and we shared a small cabin with a person we hadn’t met before.

“The wonderful thing was that we came out with 75 new friends. “It was a wonderful opportunity to focus on and reflect about being a better person.”

Dr Fitzgerald said research confirmed that women leaders demonstrated inclusion, collaboration and a legacy mindset.

It is hoped another team from UWA will be selected to go to Antarctica as part of Homeward Bound in February next year.

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