

S.Africa puts up shark net at popular beach after attacks

March 22 2013



View taken on May 15, 2012 shows Fish Hoek beach, about 30 kms from Cape Town, South Africa. South African authorities have put up a shark exclusion net Friday at a popular beach in Cape Town, a first in the city as they try to avert further deadly attacks.

South African authorities put up a shark exclusion net Friday at a popular beach in Cape Town, a first in the city as they try to avert further deadly attacks.

The net was installed at Fish Hoek beach, where [Great White sharks](#) are common and three [attacks](#) have taken place since 2004—two of them fatal.

The small meshed net will act like an "underwater fence", said Gregg Oelofse, Cape Town's head of environmental policy and strategy.

It has been designed to avoid trapping sea life, unlike larger, more traditional meshed shark nets, he said.



A Great White shark swimming off the South African coast. South African authorities have put up a shark exclusion net at a popular beach in Cape Town, a first in the city as they try to avert further deadly attacks.

The net will be trialled until January next year, to determine whether it works as a safety measure and if it will put marine life at risk.

"If we can be successful with an exclusion net, we can create a safe bathing space with no harm to the wildlife that comes into the bay," said Oelofse.

Fish Hoek beach has seen several violent [shark attacks](#) over the years.

The last fatality was in 2010, but a year later, a British man was badly mauled after ignoring warnings that sharks were in the area.

The net will be put up and removed daily to try and avoid whales and [dolphins](#) becoming entangled and trapped.

Exclusion nets are also used in Hong Kong and the Seychelles, although these are fixed.

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