

Light up surfboards may deter sharks

Australian scientists think they may have devised a way to deter great white sharks from attacking surfers and other sea surface recreationists by using light

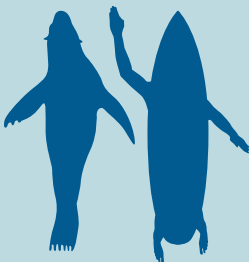
Iconic **Jaws** movie poster illustrates how **great white** sharks, believed to be colour blind and have poor visual acuity, could mistake human or surfboard silhouettes for those of seals

"COUNTERILLUMINATION" EXPERIMENT



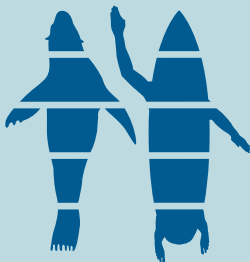
Researchers placed strips of LED lights perpendicular to travel direction of rubber seals

MISTAKEN IDENTITY



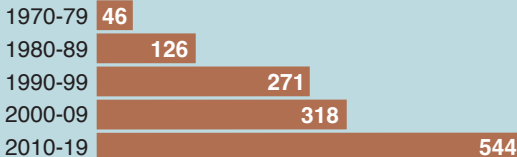
From shark's point of view, silhouette of seal from below looks almost identical to that of human on surfboard

VISUAL TRICKERY



Lights confuse sharks by breaking silhouette into unrecognisable shapes – could be used on surfboards

50 YEARS OF GLOBAL SHARK ATTACKS*



*Surface recreationists atop body of water by use of board or flotation device – surfing, water skiing, windsurfing, boogie boarding, rafting, or using inflatables at time of attack. Sources: BBC, Macquarie University, Florida Museum. Pictures: Macquarie University, ©NBCUniversal

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