

Shark Dissection Report Summary

Sample Details

Date collected – 15 July 2025

Species – White Shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*)

Location – Point Turton, Gulf St Vincent

Reference code – CCPT150725

Sample History

Members of the public reported a large stranded white shark between Point Turton and Point Souttar, Yorke Peninsula to Fishwatch on 14 July 2025. The shark carcass had first been sighted by members of the public on 10 July 2025, Fishwatch were not notified until 14 July 2025. The shark carcass was beached in the inter-tidal zone for at least five days prior to dissection. Biological samples and data were collected and delivered to PIRSA/SARDI West Beach.

Dissection was conducted by SARDI research scientists in the morning of 15 June 2025 near Len Barker Reserve, ~ 5km west of Point Turton.

Dissection interpretation

The shark was identified as a sub-adult female white shark. Minor external damage to the epidermis was evident due to prolonged water submersion, sun exposure at low tide, and abrasion from rocky intertidal benthos post-mortem. Physical body condition was considered lean. The gill filaments were filled with coarse sand particles and were in poor condition, with no signs of significant hemorrhaging. Livor mortis, discoloration of skin caused by pooling of blood after death, was evident. However, due to the heavily decomposed condition, discoloration was evident over the whole carcass. The liver was normal size but in poor condition; coloration could not be determined due to autolysis and decomposition. The liver to body weight ratio was normal at 15%. Stomach was large but empty, with no remnant hard parts or recent eversion.

Biological Information

Length metrics (mm)				
Total	Fork	Precaudal	Clasper	Uterus width
4170	3670	3250	NA	44

Maturity information		
Sex	Maturity status	Maturity Indicator
Female	Maturing sub-adult	Uterus - entirely thick, not stretched

Weights (kg)					
Total	Liver	Heart	Gonad	Stomach whole	Stomach empty
461	68.40	1.40	3.20	19.70	18.90

Prey items	Item weights (kg)
NIL	

Histology

Histology was not conducted due to the heavily decomposed condition of the carcass at the time of sample collection post-mortem.

Toxicology

Gill and liver tissue samples were sent for toxicological analysis, results were received 5 August 2025 from Analytical Services Tasmania. Neither brevetoxin 2 or 3 were found above reporting limits in liver and gill tissue from this shark.

Tissue	Biotoxin	Concentration	Units
Liver	Brevetoxin 2	<0.01*	mg/kg WMB
Liver	Brevetoxin 3	<0.01*	mg/kg WMB
Gill	Brevetoxin 2	<0.01*	mg/kg WMB
Gill	Brevetoxin 3	<0.01*	mg/kg WMB
* below reporting limit			

Summary

The cause of mortality of this maturing sub-adult female white shark could not be definitively concluded. The sharks overall body condition was lean and heavily decomposed. The stomach was empty with no evidence of recent feeding. The liver to body to weight ratio was normal suggesting it was not malnourished. Brevetoxins were not detected in either liver or gill tissues above reporting limits.

Appendix

Analytical Services Tasmania brevetoxin results (received 5 August 2025).

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ANALYTICAL SERVICES TASMANIA

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Submission Number: [REDACTED]
Report Number: [REDACTED]
Issue Date: 4/08/2025
Status: Final

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

Customer:	Department of Primary Industries and Regions	Submission Description:	Biotoxins
Address:	[REDACTED]	Sample Received Date:	30/07/2025
Contact:	[REDACTED]	Contract Number:	[REDACTED]
		Client Order Number:	
		Program/Quote Reference:	P22500011 - Biotoxins

Sample(s) analysed as received. Sampling date and time data supplied by the client. The document shall not be reproduced except in full.
Additional information relating to this submission can be found in the sample receipt notification.
This report supersedes any previous reports with this submission number.
Many tests specify a holding time which gives the recommended timeframe by which a sample should be preserved/extracted and/or analysed after the sample is taken.
Holding time information can be found on the AST website <https://analyticalservices.tas.gov.au/our-services/containers-samples-and-submissions>.
Whilst every effort is made to analyse samples within these timeframes, situations can occur where this is not possible.
Where a test has been conducted outside the recommended sample holding time this should be taken into account when interpreting results.

The results in this report were authorised by:

Name	Position
[REDACTED]	Section Head - Organic Chemistry

Test Information:

Method ID	Test Description	Date Commenced:
3411A	Brevetoxins in Biota by LC-MS/MS	01-08-2025

Submission Number: [REDACTED]
Report Number: [REDACTED]

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