

The Australian Shark Incident Database (ASID) investigated 25 reported incidents of shark-human interaction in 2022. Of these, 20 incidents were confirmed cases of unprovoked shark bites with one fatality and 12 injuries. Five incidents were provoked (four spearfishing and one scraping the bottom of a boat while on SCUBA), and three of these resulted in injuries, while two were uninjured.

Activities and injuries to victims

There were six incidents involving swimmers in 2022, one of which was fatal while four resulted in injuries. Four incidents involved surfers with only one injured. There was also a single incident involving a person walking in shallow water next to their surfboard who was injured. Two incidents, one involving a canoe and one with a surf ski were both uninjured. There were also two incidents of snorkellers, both injured, and two of people floating, both injured. There were four incidents involved spearfishing (three injured), and one scraping the hull of a boat (uninjured). For one case the activity was not reported.

Most incidents were reported from New South Wales (11 incidents with one fatality and eight injuries), Western Australia (10 incidents with five injuries), Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania each reported one case (Table 1).

Incidents occurred over all seasons. Four incidents occurred in January, February, and October, three occurred in March, and August, two occurred in April, May and December, while a single incident occurred in June.

Table 1. Number of shark incidents reported in Australia in 2022 by state and outcome.

State	Cases recorded	Fatal	Injured	Uninjured
NSW	11	1	8	2
QLD	1	0	1	0
SA	1	0	0	1
WA	10	0	5	5
VIC	1	0	1	0
TAS	1	0	1	0
NT	0	0	0	0
Total unprovoked	20	1	13	6
Total provoked	5	0	3	2
Total cases	25	1	16	8

Species of sharks

White sharks were responsible for eight incidents in 2022 including the only fatality. Bull sharks were responsible for two incidents while other whalers were responsible for four incidents. Wobbegongs were responsible for six incidents while tiger sharks and sevengill sharks were responsible for a single case each. In three cases the species of shark was unknown.

Decadal trends in shark incidents

The total of 26 cases reported for 2022, and the 20 unprovoked cases reported were both very close to the relative decadal means (Table 2).

Table 2. Mean, maximum and minimum cases per year for (a) unprovoked and provoked shark incidents and (b) unprovoked shark incidents for each decade since 1950. Note that 2020s includes cases up to April 2025.

(a) Annual cases by decade				(b) Annual unprovoked cases by decade			
	Mean	Max	Min		Mean	Max	Min
1950s	6.6	11	4	1950s	3.1	5	2
1960s	5.2	11	2	1960s	2.1	6	0
1970s	3.6	8	0	1970s	2.4	6	0
1980s	6.5	14	3	1980s	4.4	10	1
1990s	8.2	13	5	1990s	6.1	13	3
2000s	16.4	28	10	2000s	12	21	6
2010s	23.3	33	14	2010s	15.9	22	9
2020s	25.5	37	15	2020s	19.3	28	13