

The Australian Shark Incident Database (ASID) investigated 19 reported incidents of shark-human interaction in 2024. Of these, 13 incidents were confirmed cases of unprovoked shark bites, while the other six incidents were provoked. Of the provoked incidents, four victims were spearfishing, one was fishing, and one stood on a shark. One of the spearfishing incidents was the only fatality for the year, and this occurred in late December. This was the lowest number of reported incidents for a calendar year since 2013.

Activities and injuries to victims

There were five incidents involving surfers, all injured, four incidents were spearfishing with one fatality and three injured. Two incidents involved swimmers, and two were wading with all injured. The remaining six incidents involved one person who was SCUBA diving, one snorkelling, one body boarding and one fishing, all of whom were injured, as well as one windsurfer and one kayaker who were uninjured.

Most incidents were reported from Western Australia (ten incidents with eight injuries), New South Wales (four incidents, all injured) and Queensland (three incidents, two injuries, one fatality) (Table 1). Incidents occurred over all seasons. Four attacks occurred in July and December, three incidents occurred in January and April, while a single attack occurred in each of February, March, May, June and October.

Table 1. Number of shark incidents reported in Australia in 2024 by state and outcome.

State	Cases recorded	Fatal	Injured	Uninjured
NSW	4	0	4	0
QLD	3	1	2	0
SA	2	0	2	0
WA	10	0	8	2
VIC	0	0	0	0
TAS	0	0	0	0
NT	0	0	0	0
Total unprovoked	13	0	11	2
Total provoked	6	1	5	0
Total cases	19	1	16	2

An ‘unprovoked’ encounter is defined as an incident where a shark is in its natural habitat and has made a determined attempt to bite or bump a person with no provocation. A ‘provoked’ encounter occurs when a person attracts or initiates physical contact with a shark, such as a diver injured after grabbing a shark, interactions with spearfishermen while spearing fish, commercial diving while collecting aquatic animals, someone that steps on a shark, etc. Fishermen bitten while removing a captured shark from the water is not included in the database. The ‘uninjured’ category usually represents a bump or bite to a board or kayak where the person was not injured.

Species of sharks

White sharks were responsible for four incidents in 2024, while bull and tiger sharks each accounted for two incidents. Wobbegongs caused three incidents, while bronze whalers and dusky sharks were each responsible for one incident. In three cases, the species of shark was unknown, and three cases have yet to be identified.

Decadal trends in shark incidents

The total of 19 incidents reported for 2024 was lower than the decadal mean for all cases (Table 2). The total of 13 unprovoked incidents for 2024 was below the decadal mean for unprovoked incidents and was the lowest yearly total recorded in the 2020s

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			
	Mean	Max	Min
1950s	6.6	11	4
1960s	5.2	11	2
1970s	3.6	8	0
1980s	6.5	14	3
1990s	8.2	13	5
2000s	16.4	28	10
2010s	23.3	33	14
2020s	25.5	37	15

(b) Annual unprovoked cases by decade			
	Mean	Max	Min
1950s	3.1	5	2
1960s	2.1	6	0
1970s	2.4	6	0
1980s	4.4	10	1
1990s	6.1	13	3
2000s	12	21	6
2010s	15.9	22	9
2020s	19.3	28	13