

# The Sunshine Coast Daily

## Shark scares close beaches

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By REBECCA MARSHALL SHARK sightings sent a scare through swimmers at four Sunshine Coast beaches yesterday, but only one had to be closed by lifesavers.

Sharks were sighted off Bulcock, Kawana, Coolum and Sunrise beaches as large schools of baitfish continue to provide them with a fertile feeding ground.

Lifesavers patrolling Caloundras Bulcock Beach noticed a fin about 100 metres out to sea and closed the beach for half an hour while the shark was moved on and the area was made safe for swimmers.

A few minutes later and there were two separate sightings at Sunrise and Coolum beaches and another one was spotted at Kawana at about 11am.

Surf Life Saving Queensland duty officer Brian Goulding said while he was sure the sightings were of sharks, he couldnt confirm what species or how big they were. He advised people to swim at patrolled beaches only and never swim at peak shark feeding times of dawn and dusk.

Sea creatures of a very different kind have also prompted warnings from authorities.

Hundreds of blue bottle stings were reported on Coast beaches on Thursday and thousands were washed up at Mooloolaba yesterday.

And children who find one washed up on shore have been urged to resist the urge to pop them.

A sting between the toes is one of the most sensitive places on the body, Maroochy Shire acting lifeguard services manager Clive Sharp said.

They are still capable of delivering a sting even if they have been washed up for a while.

Dont play with them even though their blue sacs may look attractive to pop.

East-northeasterly winds have fanned swarms of the stingers shorewards.