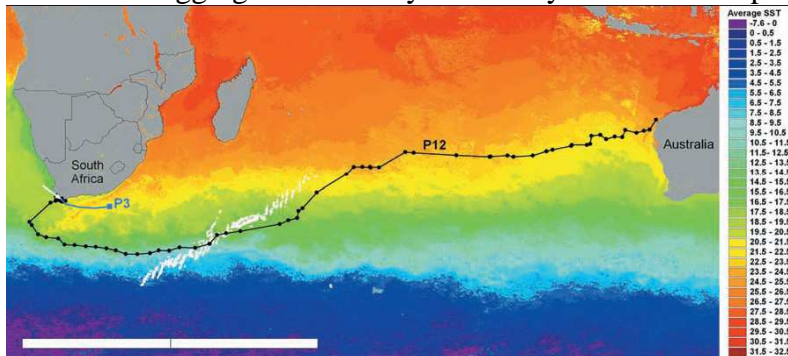


The Great white Shark *Carcharodon carcharias*

Current research

Currently there is a lot of research being done on the white shark. This research is being done predominately in areas where the shark is known to frequent. South Africa's Collaborative White Shark Research Programme is currently engaged in several tagging studies to try to identify which are the preferred habitats of great white sharks and what is the size of their home range as well as other movement patterns. The image to the left shows the transoceanic journey of one White Shark, Nicole, who later made the return journey.



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This is also the current focus of the research being done by the CSIRO and other research agencies in Australia. The CSIRO's current tagging programme involves several different tagging operations. Simple tags are placed on the shark such that if the shark is spotted again details can be gathered about its movement. Lately more advanced tagging operations using satellite tracking have revealed the actual path of the white sharks and their movements over extended periods of time.

Additional information at CSIRO White Shark research:

<http://www.cmar.csiro.au/research/sharks/whitesharks/wsresearch.html>



Additional research is also being carried out in the Farallon Islands off the coast of California. The research being carried out at the Farallon Islands is unique in several respects. Firstly, no bait is used to lure the sharks. Data is collected from natural attacks on the islands seal population as such there is no chance of the shark's behavior being altered. They have also been amassing a large data base of the sharks that frequent the island. However, instead of using tags to

identify individuals they use distinguishing features on the body such as scars and the shape of the dorsal fin in much the same way that whale watchers do. They have also got a satellite tagging program to track the shark's movements.

