

The unknown sharks of Rakiura

What and where is the preferred habitat of broadnose sevengill sharks in Paterson Inlet, Stewart Island?



Background and Importance

- Little is known about shark behavior and biology in New Zealand.
- Sharks are an important regulator of food webs by predating smaller animals.
- There is limited management and conservation considerations for sevengill sharks.
- Understanding which habitats these sharks prefer to live in will aid management and conservation of particular areas in order to sustain healthy populations.




How will this research be done?

- Sites are randomly chosen to drop our BRUVS (Baited Remote Underwater Video Stations) within Paterson Inlet, Stewart Island.
- During each drop individual sharks attracted to the bait boxes beneath the cameras are identified and recorded for overall abundance estimates.
- The habitat of each site is determined using biological and environmental data.

Expected Outcomes

- Using this information we may be able to predict where broadnose sevengill sharks can be found within Paterson Inlet, this model will then hopefully be tested and used elsewhere in NZ to locate these sharks.


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