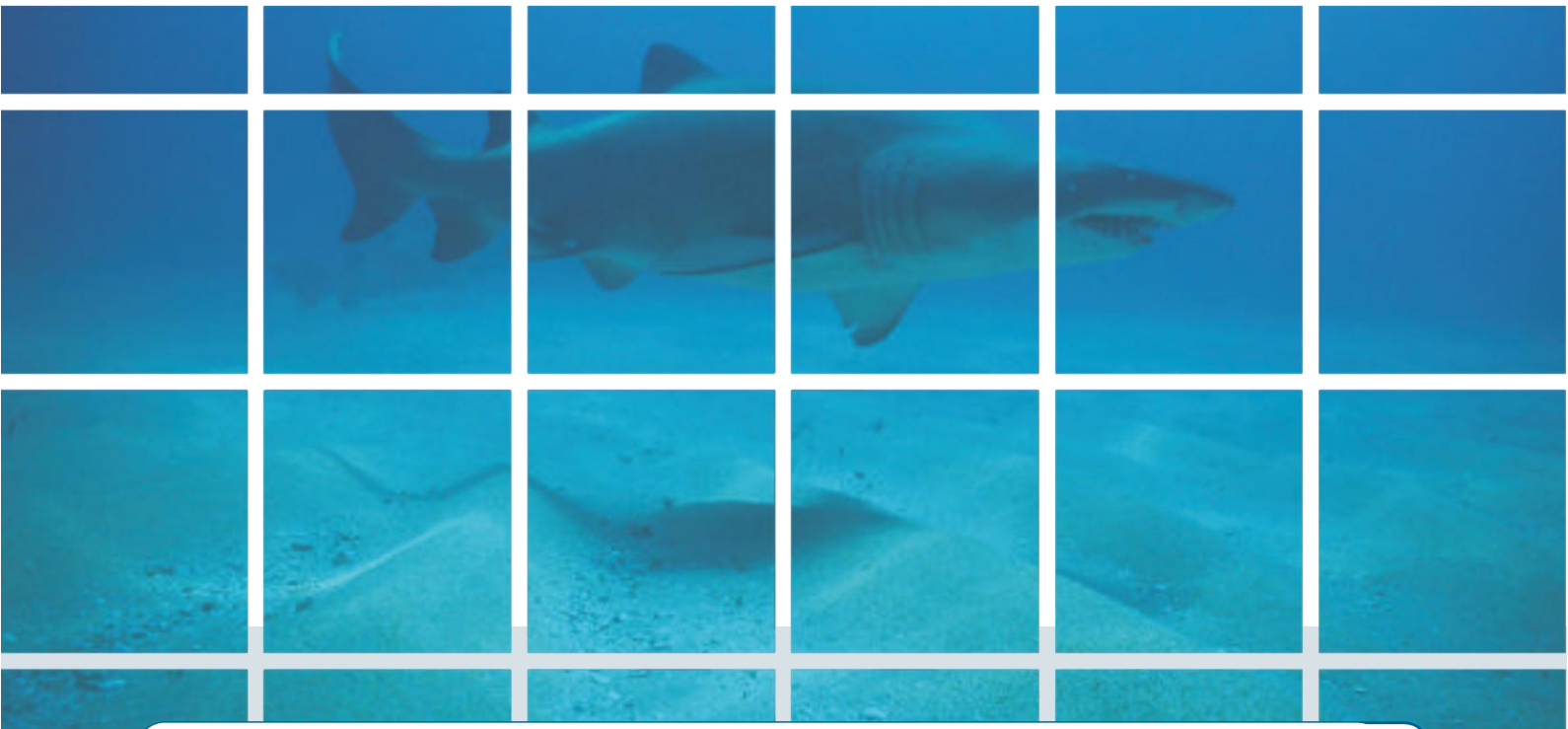

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Residency times and movement patterns of whale sharks, *Rhincodon typus*, along the Western Australian coast

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The whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) is listed as 'vulnerable to extinction' under the IUCN Red List and one of seven shark migratory species requiring regional cooperation to assist in their conservation under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). Satellite tracking of this species has been attempted in many global locations but with limited success due to short retention times. We adapted the attachment mechanism trialled by Gleiss *et al*. (2009) for short-term deployments of data-loggers attached to whale sharks to deploy satellite transmitters to the 1st dorsal fin of *R.typus*, and tested this design over two whale shark 'seasons' at Ningaloo Reef, Western Australia. The results from 10 deployments revealed a maximum retention time of 9 months and the distance travelled by one whale shark exceeded 3000 km. Short-term movement patterns were also examined using acoustic telemetry, while long-term and short-term residency times were analysed using photo-identification.

Keywords: whale shark, Ningaloo, satellite telemetry, range

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