

# Stay Stinger (box jellyfish) Safe



It is not safe to be in seawater and tidal creeks on the Northern Territory coast during the months October

Stinger Season October - May

# through to May. Northern Territory Beaches

The Northern Territory has 5,029 km of coastline and 1,488 beaches - over 200 of these beaches are 'surf beaches' and are mainly found on the east coast of Arnhem Land and becoming increasingly popular with school and community groups and fourtsm

Many Top End beaches are characterised by strong tidal currents with shallow low tide terrace structures and inshore rocks and reefs. Shallow inshore areas often have high levels of suspended sit which hides the bottom - so be careful when entering the water.

Understanding the ocean is very important - the more you know about how waves, wind and tides affect conditions in the water, the safer you will be and the better equipped you will be to keep others safe from danger. Recognising danger signs, and awareness of open water conditions, is essential in Australia. The most popular beaches in the Northern Territory are in Darwin - Mindil Beach, Nightcitf Beach and Casuarina Beach. In Amhem Land at Nhulunbuy's Town Reach or nearby Little Bondi beach and Yimkala's Shady Reach when Mesavers are on duty - usually weekends during the dry season.

#### When is Swimming safer?

Beach swimming in the Northern Territory should be undertaken in the dry season months of June, July, August and September - these months are outside the 'Slinger

## What to do if you get a tropical marine sting?

If you are sturg, or are with someone else who has been stung, the treatment will vary depending on your location and what type of stinger is involved. In areas where dangerous tropical jellyfish are found and the species treat the virtim with vinerar

The breatment is an following

. Remove the patient from the water and restrain if

. Call for help (dial 900 or get a surf lifesaver or lifeguard to help you

Assess the patient and commence CPR as necessary.

Relative size to human

STINGER SAFETY

I therafty double the storm area with vinerar to with fresh water.

 If vinegar is unavailable, pick off any remnants of the tentacles (preferably with gloves) and rinse sting well with seawater (not freshwater).

. Seek medical assistance and transport to the hospital immediately

For more information, go to

www.marinestinoers.com.aufsafety



had and Yakin









and call for help

### Protect yourself against tropical marine stingers

Rules for safe swimming apply to help reduce the risk of incidents involving marine stingers:

- . It is recommended that a full-hook turns suff or equivalent the worm to provide a good level of protection
- Enter the water slowly this gives marine striper time to move away . Always swim at patrolled beaches, between the red and yellow flags
  - Look for and obey safety signs
    - Don't enter the water when beaches are closed
    - . Ask a lifesaver or lifeouard for help and advice if you need it . Don't touch stingers washed up on the beach, they can still sting you











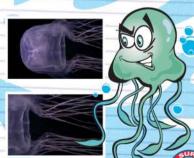
'Chironex fleckeri': Major Box Jellyfish Facts

- · 'Chironex fleckers', also known as the Major Box Jellyfish has the most rapidly acting venom known to science and is capable of killing a person in under 5 minutes.
- Although it is only one of many species of box jellyfish, it has become infamous causing more that 60 deaths in Australia over the last 100
- · Box left/fish are transparent and pale blue in colour, which makes them pretty much invisible in the water
- · Fully grown box jellyfish has a respectable size: It measures up to 20cm and sometimes larger with up to 12 or more tentacies on each side
- · Each Box Juliyfish has 24 eyes 6 on each side. . Tentacles can be up to 3 metres each in length.
- . They are spend damons , swims up to 4 knots, that's 1.5 to 2 metres resecond. In contrast to true jellyfish that mainly drift.
- . Its weight can reach 2 kg about 2 litres of mile . There are around 12 tentacles on each side and have around 5 billion
- stinging cells (nematocysts)
- . The amount of venom in one animal is enough to kill 60 adult humans.
- . The stinging cells of a box leilyfish fire venom into the skin within 3 miliseconds of being triggered - 10 times faster than the inflation of an air bag in a car crash.
- . Box leit/fish venom is shot into the body at the rate of 1.5 million O-force. The space shuttle reportedly travels at about 9 G-Force.
- Upon being stung the victim will experience immediate severe localised
- pain (like hot oil being poured on the skin). . Within minutes red marks appear which may blister later, and the skin.
- may show whip like lines. Subsequent skin death may lead to permanent . A massive dose of venom can cause the heart to beat irregularly and then
- stop (cardiac arrest) and death within 5 minutes of being stung. · Around 40 people present to a health care centre in the NT each year with
- on injury caused by a Box Jellyfish.
- . The last 14 stincer deaths in the NT have all been children
- . Children are at greater risk of severe, life threatening stings because of

Named Chargest Bookes, State the Orlock 'chief' measters 'space', carrier charges points, view an Octob, great material reality, and a serious Carrier as before a before a laboration of the finisher.

Distribution professionation courter professionation and contract and contract

Denvin is the Box July/fish capital of the world, with numbers along the costs for outsingpring sowhere with in Automia.





Season'. Consider protective clothing (long sleeved tops with shorts or a sunsuit) as stings have occurred in all months of the year. Small children are at greatest risk, so always cover them up and keep a close watch. Surf Life Baving NT recommends that you swim 'between the flags' where there are iffeguards and lifesaving resources. Only Darwin's Mindil Beach has lifesavers on duty every afternoon, June-September.