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ID 183690966 PAGE 1 of 1

Science leap in shark find

THE discovery of a species of shark never seen before in Australian waters could rewrite science, researchers say.

Shark biologist Ryan Kempster, of the University of Western Australia's Oceans Institute, said two sharks were identified as mandarin dogfish after a two-year study that included DNA sequencing.

The sharks, a male just under a metre long and a pregnant female about 1.2 metres long, were caught off Rottnest Island at 430 metres' depth by a local recreational fisherman.