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Shark Update: It's a Girl, and you can see Her Online

She's long, sleek and definitely a girl. Auckland Museum's Marine Curator Tom Trnski confirmed today the Great White Shark thawing in the loading bay of the Museum is a female.

On Thursday, 8 January Auckland Museum and the Department of Conservation will perform a public necropsy, or fish autopsy, on the shark. The free event is to raise awareness of the threats facing this vulnerable and unfairly maligned species.

The 3 metre, 300kg Great White Shark was retrieved in the Kaipara Harbour on Monday last week, entangled and dead in a gill net. A protected species in New Zealand, the Great White was recovered and frozen by Department of Conservation staff, and is currently defrosting in preparation for the necropsy. The procedure will be carried out by Clinton Duffy of the Department of Conservation Marine Conservation Section and Dr. Trnski

"The Great White arrived this morning and is currently wrapped in muslin to keep it moist while it thaws, however I did manage to carry out a cursory examination and confirm we have female. It's exciting to consider what we'll discover about this magnificent species during the necropsy," says Dr. Trnski.

"This is the first time the Museum has ever carried out a public necropsy, and anticipation is building. I've fielded calls from reporters as far afield as London."

Auckland Museum's website will be screening footage of the Great White necropsy from 2pm on the day.

The operation will examine the shark's stomach contents, as well as take measurements of internal organs, before inspecting the gills and removing the jaws. The public are invited to view the autopsy and come face to face with the shark from 11am-1pm in the loading dock at the south-eastern corner of the Museum.

