



*The fishermen captured the moment the white shark latched on to the engine of their boat.*

**ACTIVITY:** Tuna fishing

**CASE:** **GSFAF 2013.01.26**

**DATE:** Saturday January 26, 2013

**LOCATION:** Cape Nelson, Victoria, Australia.

**BOAT:** Motorized fishing boat

**OCCUPANTS:** Andrew and Ben Donegan, and Joel Ryan

**BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Waxing Gibbous, 99% of the Moon was illuminated. Full Moon, January 27, 2013.

**NARRATIVE:** The shark circled the boat then bit the boat's propeller.

**INJURY:** No injury to occupants

**SPECIES:** The incident involved a white shark, estimated to be five metres in length.



### Fishermen Film Close Encounter with Shark

A group of young fishermen has had a terrifying brush with a rogue Great White shark when the five-metre predator attacked their small boat in Victorian waters.

Ben Donegan, his brother Andrew and friend Joel Ryan were tuna fishing at Cape Nelson, off Portland, near the Victorian and South Australian border, on Saturday when the huge beast approached their vessel. The trio said the shark began circulating the boat - and then went on the attack. They managed to film the amazing encounter using an underwater camera.

"This thing just cruised in," Ben explained. "There was absolute silence and then this massive shape, pretty much the length of the boat, went under the boat and then disappeared, and popped out on the other side. You think the worst...what if it tries to grab the boat and pull you under. Our hearts were beating out of our chests."

The men said the shark initially seemed quite calm in temperament as it gracefully stalked the boat, but after about 20 minutes it became aggressive. "It was quite calm then it started to nudge the boat, bumping us and biting things," Ben said.

The men decided to escape when the shark closed in - then locked its jaws onto the motor.

Andrew added: "It started to get a bit angry and that's when we decided to get out of there. The men believe the shark had been attracted to electrical pulses coming from anodes on the

engine, designed to stop it rusting.

"We spend a lot of time in the water so to see something like this is a once-in-a-lifetime moment," Ben said. "It was a very humbling experience to see something so big, so close," Andrew added.

**SOURCE:** Christie Cooper, 7NewsMelbourne, January 28, 2013, <http://au.news.yahoo.com/vic/latest/a/-/article/15968181/fisherman-record-spine-chilling-encounter-with-shark/>

### **Rogue 5m-long great white shark attacks boat off Victoria's coast**

MELBOURNE fishermen have captured stunning pictures of a monster 5m-long great white shark attacking their tiny fishing boat off Victoria's coast.

The three fishermen, brothers Andrew and Ben Donegan and friend Joel Ryan, were tuna fishing at Cape Nelson, off Portland, near the Victorian and South Australian border, when the huge predator started to circle the vessel.

They said it then suddenly became aggressive and tried to take a bite out of the boat. The anglers said they may have pushed their luck with the shark, trying to touch it as it circled. "Every time we put the camera in the water it tried to bite the camera. We've still got our arms and hands, so that's OK," Andrew Donegan said.

"I had just dared Joel to swim out to a buoy when it came up, it was pretty lucky. We thought it was a big mako shark then we realised we were looking at half a tonne of great white shark. It was having a look at us."

The shark became agitated at the attention and took a bite at the boat's propeller. Experts said it may have been attracted to the electrical pulses from the boat's motor. Mr Donegan said the myth of deterring a shark by punching its nose would not have worked. "This thing was not even fazed in the slightest. It chewed a moving propeller," he said.

They decided to gun the boat to shore and the shark gave chase. "We decided to punch it to shore, we thought if this thing jumps or puts its head in the boat we would capsize," he said. But still they were thrilled at the close encounter, which happened on Saturday, saying they had never seen anything like it.

**SOURCE:** Andy Burns, Herald Sun, January 29, 2013, <http://www.news.com.au/national/rogue-5m-long-great-white-shark-attacks-boat-off-victorias-coast/story-fndo4cq1-1226563793141>