



ACTIVITY: Standing
CASE: [GSAF 1935.03.20](#)
DATE: Wednesday March 20, 1935
LOCATION: The incident took place Three Mile Reef off Lizard Island, 50 miles north of Cooktown in the Torres Strait, Australia.

NAME: Kosam
DESCRIPTION: He was a Torres Strait Islander from the lugger *Karabri*.

BACKGROUND
MOON PHASE: Full Moon, March 20, 1935
DEPTH: Waist-deep

NARRATIVE: Kosam was standing in the water picking up shell when he saw a shark charge. As he jumped aside, the shark grazed his thigh. As he pushed the shark away, his fingers were lacerated. He stood still until his friend rushed to his aid. He was not aware he had been injured.

SHARK ATTACK.

Pearl Diver Injured.

BRISBANE, Tuesday.

While a pearl diver, Kosam, was standing in water up to his waist near Lizard Island, North Queensland, he was attacked by a 10-foot shark. One of his thighs was badly gashed and the fingers of one of his hands were torn.

Kosam was bending to pick up shell when he saw the shark making for him. He straightened up, and the shark grazed his left side and snapped at his right thigh, biting out a large piece of flesh. In pushing the shark away with his right hand, Kosam had three fingers torn by a fin.

Kosam was almost paralysed with fright, and did not know he was injured until he was carried on to the reef by companions. He was taken in the lugger 50 miles to Cooktown.

INJURY: His left thigh was grazed and three fingers were lacerated, but the wounds were not considered to be serious.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: He was taken by lugger to Cooktown Hospital.

SPECIES INVOLVED: A tiger shark three metres [10'] in length.

SOURCES: Sydney Morning Herald, March 20, 1935, page 13; Cairns Post, March 20, 1935, page 6; Victor M. Coppleson (1958), pages 102 and 243