

ACTIVITY: Unknown

CASE: **GSAF 1987.12.13**

DATE: December 13, 1987

LOCATION: Shoalhaven, on the New South Wales south coast, Australia.



NARRATIVE: At 07h00, 38-year-old part-time fisherman and plumber Ion Lloyd and three mates took their 10 m boat from the pier at the village Shoalhaven Heads, in quest of marlin. After a few hours they decided to chum the water with a mixture of blood, flesh and offal. Suddenly, a fin appeared. "The shark circled the baits from about 50 m and acted very aggressively," Ion said. "By sheer luck the line went down his throat via the side of his mouth, missing his teeth, which would have shredded it."

After the cheers had died down at the weighing station, the discovery was made as Alan Hurst, a mate of Lloyd's from Sydney, cut the shark's stomach open, pulled out the stomach contents and laid them on the pier. First there were parts of a whale. Then three white pieces of something that looked like bones, with shreds of flesh still attached. When the fishermen realized the bones were probably human they took them to a doctor, who confirmed they were indeed human. Next morning Lloyd took the bones to the police and the bones were sent to Sydney for forensic examination.

The bones, a tibia, femur and innominate bones, were those of the right leg of a girl 162 cm tall and about 16- to 18-years-old. Police scientists believe the body was intact when it was taken by the shark, one week to three months before it was caught.

Police around the east coast have searched missing persons files without success. "Anything could have happened," a police spokesman said. "She could have been taken while swimming, or murdered and tossed off a boat. Somebody must know of a girl who has been missing for a while and those are the people we need to speak to."

In Brisbane, Sen. Sgt Peter Riken of the homicide squad said: "It has only been surmised the attack occurred off the northern NSW or Gold coasts. It really could have been anywhere. I would have thought her parents or boyfriend would have been jumping up and down by now. But all our leads go nowhere."

SPECIES: A four-metre, 350-kilogram tiger shark

SOURCES: Sun, January 30, 1988, page 12
Sunday Mail (Queensland), January 31, 1988, page 2