

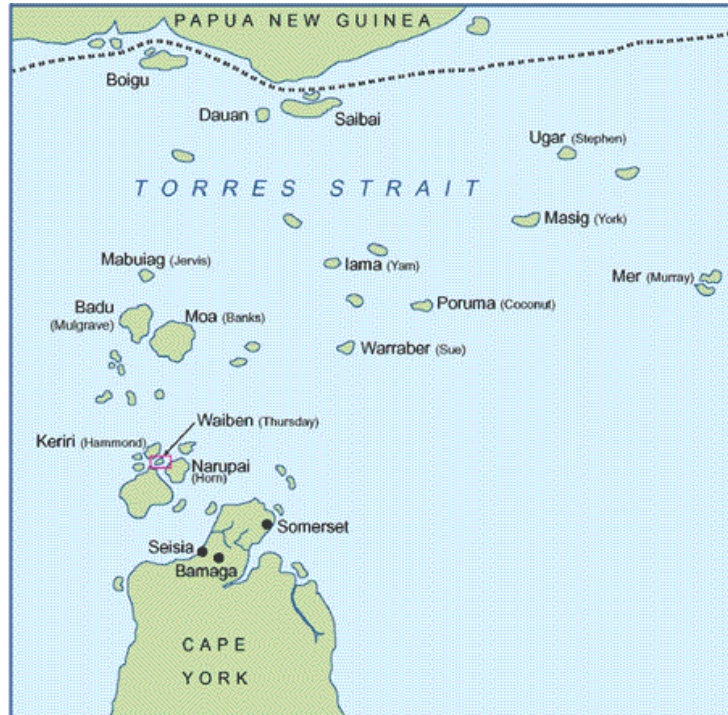
ACTIVITY: Fell overboard
CASE: **GSF 1988.01.21**
DATE: January 21, 1988
LOCATION: Torres Strait

NAME: Lo-Ying-Chun
DESCRIPTION: He was a 27-year-old Taiwanese male.

NARRATIVE: He fell overboard from the Taiwanese fishing trawler *Lien Cheng Feu*.

INJURY: His remains were recovered from a shark caught by the trawler *Ho Tai No.12* in March 1988.

SOURCE: X. Maniguet, p.206



Hardly a year goes by without human remains being discovered by fishermen in sharks' stomachs. They are then automatically submitted for police investigation as soon as they are properly identified as such by the crew. Although presumably in reality only those with clear consciences will approach the police, others who, for example, have been fishing in waters that are out of bounds to them, probably get rid of their macabre finds without trying to investigate further. This was not, however, the case for the crew of the trawler *Ho Tai no. 12*, although they did happen to be fishing at the limits of Australian territorial waters in the Torres Strait in March 1988. When the net was raised at about midday, an enormous fish which threatened to tear everything to pieces had to be killed immediately with gaffs and harpoons. It turned out to be a shark, in the stomach of which were discovered the remains of a human skull, a thigh, a leg, some finger bones and a piece of underclothing "made in Taiwan", but not destined for export. It was deduced from this that the victim must have been an inhabitant of Taiwan, and, one month later, back at Kaohsiung, the deep-frozen remains were handed over to the police. The pathologists identified the remains as those of 27 year old Lo Ying-Chun, a Taiwanese fisherman on the *Lien Cheng Feu*, also based at Kaohsiung. On 21st January, when his trawler had been operating north of Australia, he had slipped on the freeboard and fallen in the water. The boat patrolled the area for several hours, but, as so often happens in these cases, when the man in the sea has neither whistle, nor mirror, nor flare on him to indicate his position, they did not spot him and he was reported as missing.