

ACTIVITY: Finning sharks

CASE: **GSAF 1991.08.30**

DATE: August 30, 1991

LOCATION: The incident took place 100 nautical miles northeast of Brisbane, Australia.

NAME: Unknown

DESCRIPTION: He was a 36-year-old Japanese fisherman from Miyagi, one of the crew of the longline trawler *Fukaya No. 38*.

NARRATIVE: He was finning sharks on the deck of the trawler. (Finning consists of cutting the fins off living sharks, and then tossing the mutilated animals back into the sea to drown, starve or bleed to death.) One of the sharks objected and bit his arm.

INJURY: The fisherman's arm was almost severed by the shark.

TREATMENT: The man was flown by Army helicopter to the Royal Brisbane Hospital where he underwent several hours of microsurgery to repair his injury.

SPECIES INVOLVED: A three metre shark weighing 270 kilograms.

SOURCE: Alan Sharpe, pages 106-108.

NOTE: This is a provoked incident; it involved a hooked shark that was attempting to defend itself.



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