

ACTIVITY: Chumming for sharks
CASE: [GSAF 1996.01.12](#)
DATE: Friday January 12, 1996
LOCATION: The incident took place at Eight-Mile reef off Port Kembla, New South Wales, Australia.

BOAT: *Mini Haa Haar*, a fibreglass boat

OCCUPANTS: skipper Anthony Green, William Catton, Tony and Kylin Barnes

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Third Quarter, January 14, 1996

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: Eight miles

TIME: 10h00

NARRATIVE: The shark rammed, bit and sank the boat.

INJURY: No injury to occupants.

SPECIES: The incident involved a 4.3-metre [14-foot] mako shark.

SOURCES: Sunday Mail, January 14, 1996, page 2; Alex MacCormick, pages 95-96 (citing the Sunday Times, January 14, 1996)

A group of Australian fishermen who underwent a nine-hour ordeal yesterday after a giant shark gnawed off the bow of their twenty-one-foot boat have vowed to stick to golf in future.

The three men and one woman were fishing off the coast of New South Wales and had fed one hundred litres of shark bait—mainly offal—into the sea when a fourteen-foot mako bit into the front of their fibreglass boat, the *Mini Haa Haar* [sic].

Tony Barnes, one of the fishermen, said: "We had just started fishing about eight miles off shore when the shark hit us. I saw his body pass the boat, and then suddenly he ploughed straight into the bow. In three minutes the boat went down."

With room on their tiny inflatable dinghy for only one, the others had to cling to the sides with their legs dangling in the sea. Tony Green, the skipper, said: "I could see the dorsal fin going round and round, circling us for about an hour and a half. Then, eventually, the shark lost interest. That was the last we saw of it, thank God."

After nine hours the group hailed a passing tanker, but could not attract anyone's attention. "There was nobody on watch on the ship and the crew appeared not to see us," said Barnes. They had to swim towards it towing Barnes's wife, Kylin, on the inflatable before they were finally picked up, shivering from cold and shock. They were then airlifted to Wollongong hospital, near Sydney.

"We are doubly lucky to be alive," said Barnes, vowing to give up deep-sea fishing for golf. "I'm staying on land from now on and I'll buy my fish in a fish shop." The four were discharged from hospital after treatment for severe exposure and dehydration.

Sunday Times, London, 14 January 1996