

ACTIVITY: Driving shark away
CASE: GSAF 2005.01.14
DATE: Friday January 14, 2005
LOCATION: The incident took place in Port Phillip at Blairgowrie, Victoria, Australia.



The Minnows at Blairgowrie Yacht Club on January 14, 2005

BOAT: dinghy

BACKGROUND

TIME: 14h00

NARRATIVE: The incident took place during a sailing regatta of eight- to 14-year-old children and followed warnings of a shark in the water.

The fleet, during heats of the Australian Minnow Championships, was already experiencing difficulty due to the rising wind. As the wind changed and strengthened to 25 knots, children tried to get to shore and the race was abandoned. "Some of the kids ended up half way to Rye and other boats were capsizing. We had some fairly tense times and excited parents," said Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron commodore Ian Warner.



When aware that a shark was in the area, race officials attempted to drive away. Warner said officials bashed the shark with an oar to fend it off, but it holed one of the floatation tanks.

INJURY: No injury to occupants

SPECIES: A bronze whaler shark, about two to three metres in length.

SOURCES: Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron;

Anthony Dowsley, Herald Sun, January 15, 2005

<http://www.heraldsun.news.com.au/printpage/0,5481,11942730,00.html>

