

**ACTIVITY:** Standing  
**CASE:** [GSAF 2008.04.17](#)  
**DATE:** Thursday April 17, 2008  
**LOCATION:** Duranbah, Greenmount Beach, Queensland, Australia.

**NAME:** David Weale  
**DESCRIPTION:** A 19-year-old male from Brisbane. He was wearing a wetsuit.

**BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, April 20, 2008  
**DEPTH OF WATER:** One metre (or chest-deep)  
**TIME:** 11h00

**NARRATIVE:** David Weale was standing in the water taking photographs of surfers when he was bitten by a fish. Lifeguards said the man had felt pain in his leg and grabbed the small shark with both hands before it slipped away.

Lifeguard supervisor Chris Maynard says the water was cleared for a few hours as a precaution, "We're not quite sure of the details as far as there's any other bait fish in the area, whether it was chasing something." Lifeguards said the man had felt pain in his leg and grabbed the small shark with both hands before it slipped away "All we know is it was a very small shark and possibly nipped him." Three southern beaches, Coolangatta, Greenmount and Rainbow, were closed for two hours following the incident.

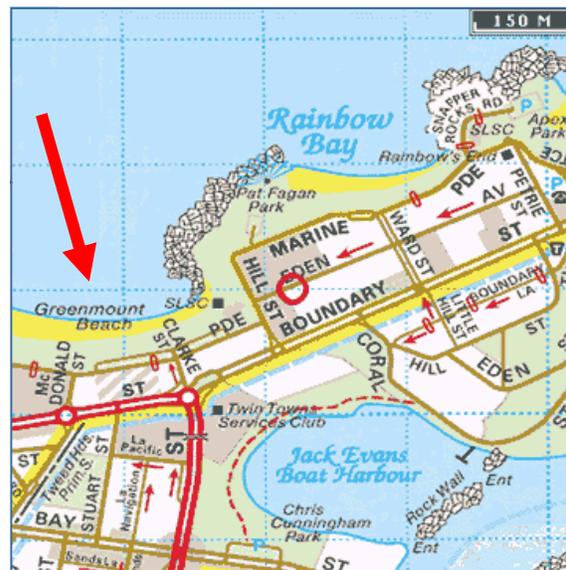
**INJURY:** Lifeguards said the man had sustained a small puncture to the thigh or calf.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** Mr. Weale walked to the lifeguards who closed the beach and bandaged the leg. Chief Gold Coast Life Guard Warren Young said, "The man was not perturbed by the incident. He received preliminary first aid from the Greenmount life guards, before heading for the doctors. The ambulance was not called, but I expect the man will need a good few stitches." Mr. Weale was taken to Tweed Hospital by a friend where his injury was repaired with two stitches, and he was discharged.

**SPECIES:** This incident was initially reported by the press as a shark attack, but subsequent information suggests it involved a barracuda, and it is classified as a "questionable incident" by the Global Shark Accident File. The teen said "[the fish] felt greasy," and he threw it away, said Mr. Young. "It was a one-to-two-foot fish, but anecdotal



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evidence is pointing toward it being a barracuda rather than a shark. People we've spoken to said the puncture wounds are similar to a barracuda, and they're fairly aggressive.”

**SOURCES:** Marissa Calligeros, Brisbane Times, April 17, 2008  
Sydney Morning Herald, <http://www.news.com.au/story/0,23599,23555265-2,00.html>

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Christofer Johansson, Global Shark Accident File