

**ACTIVITY:** Crayfishing

**CASE:** [GSAF 2012.03.22.R](#)

**DATE:** First reported March 22, 2012 and continuing

**LOCATION:** The incidents took place at Blue Holes, a reef system in the area of Kalbarri, Western Australia. Kalbarri is located at the mouth of the Murchison River at  $27^{\circ}42'47''S$ ,  $114^{\circ}09'50''E$

**NARRATIVE:** One or more white sharks were nudging fishing boats in the vicinity.

**INJURY:** None of the fishermen were injured by the shark or sharks.



### Great white stalks Kalbarri fishermen

A 3.5 metre great white shark gave a father and son a shock when it bumped into their small crayfish boat off Kalbarri early this morning.

Dave Duperouzel and his son Mitchell had been pulling the last of their cray fish pots at 5.50am at Blue Holes when the white pointer crashed into their outboard motor.

Early reports from the local sea rescue radio volunteers were that the boat's propeller had been bitten and the young man had nearly been sent reeling overboard.

"No [the shark's] just needed glasses sort of thing," he said with a chuckle. "[It's] come up and banged the boat but we didn't lose our balance, put it that way." He said it appeared to be an accidental nudge but he understood that sharks were quite inquisitive by nature. He said he was surprised at seeing the large shark as he had never seen great white, let alone one up close in his 20 years of crayfishing. "It's a little bit warm for it to be in these waters so it has us all a bit dumbfounded," he said. He said that he had seen a couple of seals in the area recently.

Colin Baker was the first to spot the shark on Saturday. "I was in the boat on my own, pulling my craypots and as my craypot was coming up I noticed a shadow down in the water but I didn't pay it any particular attention," he said. "As I pulled the pot out, I glanced underneath the craypot and there was this rather large shark. It frightened me and my eyes dropped out I suppose," he said.

He said he watched it move around the boat and down the side before disappearing into deeper water. He said he took a friend out the following morning and as they were throwing the floats to their pots out they saw a splashing. "I said 'what the heck was that?' and I kept the boat moving and as I was moving it got hold again and my friend saw a massive-sized fin," he said.

He said as they through the second float the shark chomped through the rope and severed the float entirely. "It was definitely a white pointer it had that distinctive pointed nose and he went around the side and eyed us off," he said. "I thought 'well I don't want to be your dinner'. He was very obviously looking at me and whether it was out of curiosity or hunger, goodness only knows."

A few other fishermen have seen the shark with all of them reporting that it was between three and four metres.

It has been seen in waters as shallow as 15 metres around Blue Holes and Siphons, which is about 200 metres offshore along the Kalbarri coast. Some believe that it may be sick and hungry, while others believe it may be staking out new territory.

**SOURCE:** The Sydney Morning Herald—Western Australia News, March 22, 2012, <http://www.smh.com.au/wa-news/great-white-stalks-kalbarri-fishermen-20120322-1vmfk.html>

### **Shark nudges boat at Kalbarri**

As authorities search for a killer shark in WA's south-west, Water Police have been told a great white shark has nudged a boat near Kalbarri, about 590km north of Perth, this morning.

The 4m shark had been circling around Blue Holes, an inshore coastal limestone reef system, for at least six days.

It has repeatedly been coming in close when fishermen pull their cray pots in the early mornings.

This morning's incident was reported to Water Police about 8.20am.

The boat skipper made the call as he headed to shore and at the time, was unsure what damage had been done to the vessel.

**SOURCE:** Gabrielle Knowles, The West Australian, April 1, 2012,  
<http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/breaking/13316486/shark-bites-boat-at-kalbarri/>

### **GREAT WHITE NUDGES BOAT**

Meanwhile, a great white has tried to take a bite from a boat near Kalbarri, 600km north of Perth.

A Water Police spokeswoman said the 4m shark had been menacing fishermen at Blue Holes, a reef system in the area, for more than a week.

It has been coming close to fishermen when they pull up their cray pots early in the morning.

The first sighting of the shark today was reported to Water Police at 7.50am and a second call was received at 8.20am, reporting the shark had attempted to bite a boat.

The Volunteer Marine Rescue has been patrolling the area for a number of days.

The fisherman was heading to shore to assess the damage to the boat.