



ACTIVITY: Fishing

CASE: GSAF 2015.01.17

DATE: Saturday January 17, 2015

LOCATION: Off Blacksmiths Beach, Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia.

BOAT: A tinny. In Australia and New Zealand "tinny" is slang for a small open aluminium boat.

OCCUPANTS: Belmont resident 24-year-old Tim Watson and 23-year-old Allan de Sylva.



BACKGROUND

WEATHER: Increased marine activity and warm weather are thought to be possible reasons for the shark's prolonged presence.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: Thirty minutes

TIME: 10h30

NARRATIVE: Tim Watson said they'd been drifting around for about two hours and had only caught a few fish when the shark approached and began circling their tinny. "We had a bit of blood in the boat that was getting washed in and out," he said. Watson said there were a number of other boats around when the incident occurred, including a charter boat within 20 metres but they said they didn't notice anything.

"When [the shark] rose up we realised how big it was. It then stopped and nudged the boat. If it had hit it much harder the boat would have taken in a bit of water. A few times it actually started to bring its face out of the water and was rubbing it alongside." Watson had been filming the encounter but then he stopped and tried to pull-start the engine to get away. "I started to pull and [the shark] came right underneath and head butted the engine and tried to open its mouth," he said.

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SPECIES: The men estimated the shark was a metre longer than their boat and only “half a foot” narrower than it. They estimate the shark was five metres in length.

SOURCE: The Sydney Morning Herald, January 18, 2015
<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/shark-sighting-fishermens-close-brush-with-danger-leaves-them-rattled-20150118-12svf0.html>