



**ACTIVITY:** Fishing  
**CASE:** [GSAF 2015.03.11](#)  
**DATE:** Wednesday March 11, 2015  
**LOCATION:** Julian Rocks in Byron Bay, Australia

**NAME:** Robbie Graham  
**DESCRIPTION:** He is a local fisherman.  
**BOAT:** A small dinghy, a tinny.



*Robbie Graham*

**BACKGROUND**

**ENVIRONMENT:** Julian Rocks lies 2.5 km from Byron Bay's shore. In 1982 Julian Rocks was declared a marine sanctuary under the Fisheries and Oyster Farms Regulation. This means that injuring, disturbing and removal of all forms of marine fauna within a 500 meter radius of the rocks is prohibited. Local surfers and anglers reported seeing several white sharks in the area around Byron Bay during the previous week.

**TIME:** Morning

**NARRATIVE:** Robbie Graham was fishing alone attempting to reel in a tuna he caught near Julian Rocks. He was standing, rod in hand, when a white shark rammed into the back end of his boat, and he was thrown into the sea from the impact. "This huge shark about 4.5m came launching into the side of the boat and knocked him off his feet into the water," his friend Hoss McGrath told APN Media.

Shaken by the freak incident, Mr Graham returned immediately to shore and notified lifeguards, who promptly closed Main Beach for the remainder of the day despite almost perfect swimming conditions. Local dive and kayaking companies cancelled daily trips, while Byron Bay High School also cancelled its regular Wednesday afternoon snorkelling and surfing activities according to principal Peter King.

**INJURY:** The fisherman was not injured by the shark, but he sustained bruising to his ribs from his fall overboard.

**SPECIES:** The incident was said to involve a 4.5 metre [15-foot] white shark.

**SOURCES:** Echo Daily, March 13, 2015

The Northern Star, March 13, 2015

Inquisitr, March 13, 2015

Northern Star, March 13, 2015, <http://www.northernstar.com.au/news/great-white-escape-local-fisho-charged-off-byron-s/2572801/>

**COMMENT:** The shark was clearly only after the fisherman's catch. It made no attempt to injure the man in the water. It is not known what penalty Graham will face if it is found that he was fishing within the marine sanctuary.

