



**ACTIVITY:** Kayak fishing for yellowtail

**CASE:** [GSAF 2015.07.23.b](#)

**DATE:** Thursday July 23, 2015

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean off La Jolla, San Diego County, California, USA.

**BOAT:** Blue fiberglass kayak

**OCCUPANT:** Austin Lorber, a 31-year-old male. He and his brothers own Fratelli's Italian Kitchen in San Marcos and Oceanside.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 1.5 miles

**TIME:** Just before 07h00

**NARRATIVE:** Austin Lorber and his fishing partner David Le were fishing from kayaks when David threw out a mackerel and a shark took the bait. When the shark leapt from the water, they realized it was a mako. As Lorber attempted to gaff the shark, it bit the kayak. "It was already going for the kayak and I was lucky enough to sink the gaff right as it was about to bite the kayak," he said. "I just had to hold on to it for about 45 minutes as it dragged me around. I didn't want to get my hand anywhere near that head until it had been tired for at least a half hour." After fishing for a few more hours fishing for yellowtail, the shark tired. Then Lorber, with help of another angler, put the shark in his fish hold and paddled to shore.

Unaware of the high level of methyl mercury and other toxins in shark flesh including BMAA, Lorber said he gave away steaks cut from his catch.

**SPECIES:** A 100-pound (estimated), mako shark.

**NOTE:** This was a provoked incident. The shark only reacted defensively to being gaffed.

**SOURCE:** NBC San Diego, July 27, 2015

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