

ACTIVITY: Fishing

DATE: Sunday January 24, 2016

CASE: GSAF 2016.01.24.a

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Arabian Sea 35 miles off Fujairah on the eastern coast of the United Arab Emirates.
25°18'21.06"N, 56°59'55.63"E

OCCUPANTS: Hamza Humaid Al Sahra'a, age 36, and his five crew.

BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT: Khalifa Masoud, deputy chairman of Fujairah Fishermen's Association, said the incident was not all that surprising given that his vessel has been subject to flying sharks twice before last year. In last year's incidents, the sharks were smaller, he said. The behaviour of mako sharks to suddenly jump at vessels has led to warnings to local fisherman not to sit on the edge of their boats which could prove dangerous.

TIME: 21h00 (night)



Khalifa Masoud



NARRATIVE: One of the crew was fixing a cable when the shark leapt from the water onto the aft deck of the boat. The shark thrashed about until crew members subdued it with a large stick and then tied it down for safety.

INJURY: None of the crew were injured by the shark.

SPECIES: The incident involved a large mako shark estimated to weigh two tons. (Some reports estimate the shark was three metres in length, others claim it was four metres.) The mako shark is locally known as 'Al Dhaiba' (a fish with wolf characteristics). The shark was taken to Al Rogilat harbour where it was off-loaded. Khalifa Masoud said the fishermen's association is expected to preserve the large shark for eventual display at the Fujairah Maritime Museum.

SOURCES: Gulf News, January 25, 2016

<http://gulfnews.com/news/uae/society/huge-shark-jumps-into-boat-off-fujairah-1.1659770>

Khaleej Times, January 25, 2016

<http://www.khaleejtimes.com/nation/fujairah/shark-attack-near-fujairah-fishermen-escape->