

**ACTIVITY:** Kayaking

**CASE:** GSAF 2016.07.28

**DATE:** Thursday July 28, 2016

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Indian Ocean at Possession Point near Albany, in King George Sound, Western Australia.

**NAME:** Ian Watkins

**KAYAK:** A 17-foot kayak

### **BACKGROUND**

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The water was murky.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 200 metres

**NARRATIVE:** Ian Watkins initially thought the shark was the wake of a nearby whale-watching vessel and then he realised it was a white pointer following him. "This wave was coming behind me and I thought 'what the heck's that', and then I looked on and there's this massive fin, and I thought 'that's a serious shark'," he said. "It pushed me from the left hand side and then it nudged me from the middle across the left hand side. I was trying to stay upright and then it circled me for a while and I got on the radio and said 'emergency, emergency, emergency'."

Paul Guest was in his charter vessel about 600 metres away from the man when he received the emergency call from Watkins who said he needed assistance because a white shark was bumping into his kayak and giving him a bit of grief. "Passengers at the back of the boat pointed to him so we turned around and headed to them at full speed", Mr Guest said. "We backed off the revs as we got to him, so we didn't knock him off his ski, I thought that was something we didn't need to do."

**INJURY:** No injury

**SPECIES:** A white shark. Mr Watkins said he was not sure how big the shark was, but it was as big as his kayak. "I was more interested in staying upright," he said. "I don't know whether it would have actually attacked me or whether it was just checking me out but it was definitely interested and didn't let me go."

**SOURCES:** ABC Australia, July 28, 2016

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-07-28/kayaker-has-close-call-with-shark-in-albany/7670352>

News.com.au, July 28, 2016

<http://www.news.com.au/national/breaking-news/large-shark-rams-albany-kayaker/news-story/88efe121c94628943c9dd6d77cb43df7>



*Ian Watkins and his kayak*

ABC News: Kendall O'Connor