

FISHING STORIES

http://www.cairns.com.au/article/2008/10/18/10951_local-news.html



Miracle survival at sea

Thomas Chamberlin
Saturday, October 18, 2008
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Back at work: Two men and a woman plucked from shark-infested waters 30 hours after their trawler sank went almost straight back to work on another fishing boat yesterday.

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TWO men and a woman plucked from shark-infested waters 30 hours after their trawler sank went almost straight back to work on another fishing boat yesterday.

Police said Cairns-based vessel *Kimiss Lee* capsized in the Torres Strait early on Thursday morning about 30km northeast of Coconut Island.

But it was only early yesterday morning that a helicopter pilot on a routine flight miraculously saw them and raised the alarm.

"They were lucky to escape the trawler, it rolled so quickly," Thursday Island police Constable Matthew Slatcher told *The Weekend Post*.

"They were clinging to the upturned hull for 30 hours."

Police said the 20m boat had capsized so quickly that the crew were not able to set off an emergency beacon. Customs and maritime authorities and other trawlers in the area were involved in the search before the three people were plucked from the ocean by another boat, believed to be the *Lady Morton*, yesterday.

They were later transferred on to *Kimiss Lee*'s sister ship *Samantha J*.

Last night, ship owner Kevin Lock, of Cairns, said his crew had been prawn trawling when the chaos unfolded.

And amazingly, he said the crew were back at work last night.

"When they got near the reef they swam over it and on to a sand cay," Mr Lock said.

"They are all right. I'm happy that no one is injured. The boat will be salvaged."

Mr Lock said his crew had needed a good rest and meal before going back to work.

"My other boat is going to work tonight," he said.

"They are not hurt, I spoke to them myself."

He said he didn't believe much stock was on board the boat.

"It only unloaded a week ago and there wasn't much fuel on board," Mr Lock said.

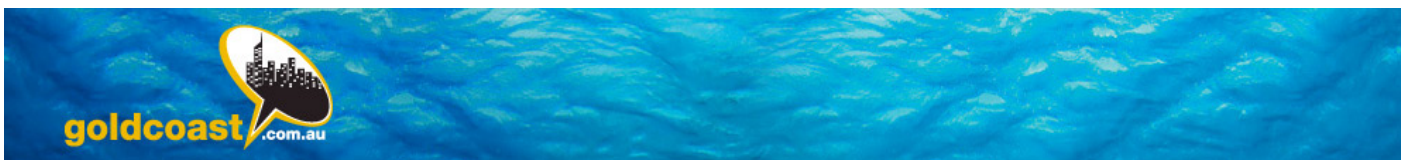
Late yesterday maritime authorities continued searching for the boat, but were not believed to be near the capsized vessel.

"They are extremely lucky to be alive," Constable Slatcher said.

Mr Lock was adamant the boat had not sunk and said he would send a salvage crew to rescue to the ship as soon as possible.

"It does happen a lot more than you think," he said. "No fuel or oil was spilt."

http://www.goldcoast.com.au/article/2008/10/18/17657_gold-coast-lead-story.html



Dave's great white fright

October 18th, 2008



A 2.3m great white shark washed ashore at Mermaid Beach on the Gold Coast. October 16, 2008.
Photographer : Luke Sorensen

COUNCIL lifeguard Dave White found himself in a scene straight from the movie Jaws when he spotted a buoy and then a fin moving off Mermaid Beach yesterday.

When he grabbed the buoy in shallow water just off shore, Mr White received a surprise -- on the end of the hook was a 2.3m great white shark.

"I was checking the flags on the beach when I saw the buoy moving and thought, 'that isn't right'," said Mr White.

"When he swam back against the current and I saw the fin I realised something was going on."

Thankfully the beaches were empty yesterday, as the grey skies kept many swimmers and beach revellers away.

It was the second great white caught off the Coast in the past three days after a 2.1m shark was hooked off Rainbow Bay on Wednesday.

It follows reports from scuba divers who saw three 4m great whites at The Pass at Byron Bay and at Smith's Shoal, near Flinders Reef off Cape Moreton, in the past two weeks.

Yesterday's action happened about 12.30pm. With the help of another lifeguard who left his tower up at Nobby Beach, Mr White managed to drag the line and wrangle the shark to shore.

"It was shock more than anything, especially when I realised it was a great white," he said.

A number of stunned witnesses watched as the shark was taken from the water.

Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries Queensland shark control program manager, Tony Ham, said great white sightings were not uncommon on the Coast this time of the year.

"It's a bit unusual in that they normally tend to be held in the drum line once they have been caught," said Mr Ham.

"However, from time to time they will thrash and bite frenetically at the anchor rope, as happened yesterday."

The shark was on the beach for about 20 minutes before DPI&F officers took it away to be studied and to check its stomach contents.

Yesterday's catch was the twelfth great white caught in the nets on the Gold Coast since 2003.

Mr Ham said swimmers should be mindful of the great white's presence on the Coast. They would be around for at least another month as they followed the whale population on its migration south.

"It goes to show people should still exercise caution when they are swimming at the beaches, even if they are in the patrolled areas," he said.

<http://www.thewest.com.au/default.aspx?MenuID=77&ContentID=103100>

thewest.com.au The West Australian

Ban delay 'threatens' best fish

17th October 2008, 6:00 WST

A leading WA fisheries researcher says a Government decision to defer seasonal fishing bans aimed at protecting popular species had put them at risk of overfishing and at least one type — dhufish — may never recover.

Jill StJohn, co-author of a Department of Fisheries research paper that the previous Labor government used to impose summer bans on five highrisk species, said stocks were already under big pressure and the delay would put them at further risk.

BLOG: Should more be done to protect fish species?

Summer bans on anglers taking pink snapper, dhufish, red snapper, baldchin groper and breaksea cod between Kalbarri and Augusta had been due to take effect this week under the Carpenter government plan.

But the closure has been delayed by Fisheries Minister Norman Moore in line with a pre-election pledge by the Liberal Party to review the bans.

Dr StJohn, marine co-ordinator with the Wilderness Society, said summer was a critical spawning period for the vulnerable species.

With the threat of possible closures in coming seasons once a review of the changes had been done, she said fishermen were likely to get as much out of the upcoming season as possible.

"My worry is that too many fishermen won't just fish it, they will flog it," she said. "Particularly with dhufish, past recruitment patterns show that we may have only one chance to save them. We are calling on recreational fishers not to flog the fishery this summer, because if they do there may possibly be nothing left for them in future years or for their children."

She said Labor's decision to bring in bans had been based on years of research and the reversal of the plan by Mr Moore had been rushed because the proposed date of the closures came just weeks after the election and change of government.

“Hopefully, once Minister Moore understands the problems this fishery is facing he will put in real measures to protect our iconic species,” she said.

Dhufish counts had revealed particularly worrying trends, with the maximum age of the species dropping from 41 to 31 years over the past 10 years. Maintaining bigger female fish longer than 98cms, which were generally more than 25 years of age, was critical for breeding because they could produce 11 times more eggs than younger females.

Former fisheries minister Jon Ford had said a minimum 50 per cent reduction in the catch was needed to help protect stocks.

A spokesman for Mr Moore yesterday referred to comments the Minister made after he announced the bans had been deferred. He said other options, including reduced bag limits and stricter size requirements, would come into effect from January. He said this would ease some pressure on the fishery while an independent review was carried out.

Recfishwest executive director Frank Prokop said anglers had to carefully consider how much dhufish they caught but supported Mr Moore’s move to review the research, arguing the proposed four-month closures had been too much too soon.

WA Fishing Industry Council chief executive Graeme Stewart said the commercial fishing industry had been subject to big restrictions already with further cuts due in January.

“It seems that only some parts of the WA community are serious about sustaining fish for the future,” he said.

JODIE THOMSON and MICHAEL BENNETT

<http://www.vcc.vic.gov.au/coastalawards.htm>

Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence 2009 are NOW OPEN

Celebrating and recognising the great work achieved by individuals, groups, agencies, businesses, schools and governments to protect and enhance Victoria's magnificent and unique coastal and marine environments.



The Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence are an annual event hosted by the Victorian Coastal Council and Coast Action/Coastcare. Now in their 10th year, these awards recognise and acknowledge outstanding contributions to protecting and enhancing the values of Victoria's coast - be they natural, cultural, historical, visual or built.

THERE'S A CATEGORY FOR EVERYONE

The VCC and Coast Action/Coastcare are on the lookout for individuals, groups, community networks, businesses, agencies, organisations, institutions, land managers, and Local Government who deserve to be recognised for their work on the coast.

Ten categories aim to capture the breadth of coastal and marine related initiatives occurring on the coast and within our coastal catchments:

- Outstanding Individual Achievement
- Community Action
- Coastal Management
- Education
- Innovation
- Coastal Planning
- Coastal Culture
- Biodiversity Conservation
- Integrated Coastal and Catchment Management
- Coastal Building and Design

WHY NOMINATE?

- Showcase coastal achievements
- Make new coastal contacts
- Recognise leaders and innovators on the coast
- Gain recognition for outstanding efforts

IT'S EASY TO ENTER

The coastal awards follow a simple process that makes it easy for you to enter. All you need to do is fill in an entry form addressing the key selection criteria for the category you are nominating in. To find out more, please read the terms & conditions and nomination guidelines. To make a nomination, please [click here](#).

JUDGING

Each coastal award category is assessed and judged by a series of experts. Assessors and judges can include people from the environmental, scientific, education, business, and government sectors. Assessment and judging panels will be made up of at least three assessors/judges. The assessment of nominations will be based on the written nomination and independent references. Finalists within each category will be announced in early Autumn 2009.

AWARDS PRESENTATION NIGHT

Finalists in each category will be short-listed and invited to the Victorian Coastal awards for Excellence Presentation Night in Autumn 2009, where winners in each category will be announced by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change and the Chair of the Victorian Coastal Council.

Entries close 5.00pm Friday 12 December 2008

For more information or assistance, please contact the Coastal Awards team on 03 9637 9776 or at awards@vcc.vic.gov.au





<http://kangarooisland.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/planning-our-marine-defence/1335544.aspx>



Planning our marine defence

16/10/2008 12:56:00 PM

Most visitors to Kangaroo Island are welcome. They add to our income and quality of life and they appreciate our natural wonders.

But visitors such as marine pests are not at all welcome, and PIRSA Fisheries and the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board are working to keep them out.

KI's coast and marine environment is a rare treasure in Australia. Marine pests could have devastating effects on our tourism, fishing and aquaculture industries and drastically increase the cost of maintaining coastal infrastructure.

Since the European fan worm (*Sabella spallanzanii*) was first found on Kingscote jetty early this year we know that marine pests can make the journey across Backstairs Passage, probably attached to the hull of a vessel.

Kangaroo Island depends almost exclusively on land-sea transport for import and export of goods, and transportation of residents and visitors on and off the Island. Around the world, marine pests are frequently transported by shipping and boat traffic. They initially become established on infrastructure in harbours.

Add up our points of entry: wharf facilities at Kingscote, Penneshaw and American River, a marina at Christmas Cove and moorings at Kingscote, Shoal Bay and American River. Ferries cross between the mainland and KI several times a day all year round; domestic and international yachts and cruise ships visit seasonally; and sail training vessels pay routine visits to Kingscote.

Backstairs Passage is also a significant shipping route for cargo vessels and a number of ships heave-to there.

In recognition of the dangers, two workshops for government, industry and community on October 29 and 30 will take a proactive approach to recognising, reporting and responding to marine pest incursions to help safeguard the Island's pest-free status.

The NRM Board's Coast and Marine program, supported by PIRSA's Marine Biosecurity Unit, will also begin a series of surveys in November to comprehensively search likely invasion sites.

If you would like to participate in the community workshop, please come along to the KI Natural Resources Management Board at 35 Dauncey St Kingscote on Thursday October 30.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/10/15/2391497.htm>

Prawn thieves slip police net

Posted Wed Oct 15, 2008 10:32am AEDT

Updated Wed Oct 15, 2008 4:01pm AEDT



Thieves with load of frozen prawns evade police net (ABC News)

Two men have made a brazen escape from Adelaide police after being caught stealing seafood.

Police went to suburban Fulham Gardens just before 2:00am because of a tip-off, and saw a white van drive off from a shop in Tapleys Hill Road.

The thieves were chased twice by police units, but got away after backing their van into a police car, then abandoning it a short time later with \$30,000 worth of frozen prawns left inside.

The owner of the seafood shop, Michael Velonakis, says it will be a struggle to replace stock in time for Christmas.

"The closer we get to Christmas the less supply of stock there is, particularly prawns this time of year," he said.

"We've been having a shortage unfortunately, and it's a very easily changed commodity because you know, our tradition of Christmas, the prawns on the barbie and of course the crays and that sort of stuff."

<http://www.borderwatch.com.au/archives/1537>

The Border Watch

Robe marina project moves forward

Posted on October 15, 2008, 5:05pm

The Robe marina project is moving forward and there is some positive news to report, according to the Robe Marina Committee chairman Bill Hender.

A recent visit to Robe by Kevin Smith from Engineered Water Systems, who supplied and installed the marina equipment, confirmed the infrastructure was in good condition and required only regular scheduled maintenance.

This inspection also provided marina committee members, council staff and contractors with the opportunity to be fully informed about the maintenance requirements of the pontoons to enable repairs and maintenance to be carried out by local residents.

Mr Hender also reported to a recent Robe Council meeting that progress is being made with the installation of new fuel tanks and with gaining approval to dredge an area around the new fuel jetty.

He said the committee was working cooperatively with the Environment Protection Authority on both issues.

"All the available commercial fishing berths are now full and the facility is geared ready for the new fishing season," Mr Hender said.

"There continues to be strong interest in accessing recreational berths at the marina.

"Formal leases have been prepared for berth holders and are awaiting final approval from the Minister of Transport before being distributed for signing."

The Robe Marina Committee has recommended to Council that a planning consultant be engaged to review and update earlier plans for the future development of the marina precinct.

Mr Hender said the committee was also re-examining all aspects of the finances associated with the project to build a new financial model to enable completion of the marina project in a financially sustainable way.

Summer break for Port Phillip Bay dredgers

Article from: **Herald Sun**

- Font Matt Johnston

October 16, 2008 12:00am

TWO of Victoria's biggest dredging ships will take a holiday from tomorrow, leaving beach-goers to play in a dredge-free bay for most of summer.

Dredging vessels are banned from operating in the bay from December 18 to January 31, but scheduled maintenance work for the *Queen of the Netherlands* and *Cornelis Zanen (CoZa)* in Singapore means a longer dredging break.

Port Phillip Bay tourism operators cheered the news that the ships would leave tomorrow, but said the channel-deepening project should be halted for longer during the tourist season.

The Queen will return to the bay in March, while the *CoZa* will do some dredging in the bay's north in early December before taking a break until February. *The Queen* will also have 50m added to her length before returning to Australia.

Port of Melbourne Corporation chief executive Stephen Bradford said the ocean giants' break would not affect the channel project's time line and the dredging of the bay would still be completed on budget before the end of 2009.

"The original concern was that turbidity around the dredge was an inconvenience to bay users and holiday makers around Portsea, Sorrento and Rye in the Christmas period," Mr Bradford said.

"Part of the environmental conditions that the Port has to operate does now allow any dredging in that time."

Mr Bradford said the water quality would be good during summer and there was no reason to worry about health risks.

The owner/operator of Polperro Dolphin Swims in Sorrento, Judith Muir, said she was against dredging but was happy there would at least be a summer break. She said the dredge-free period should include the full peak tourism period.



Seafood thieves face charges

Article from: **The Advertiser**

MICHAEL MILNES, POLICE REPORTER

October 15, 2008 07:30am

LUCKLESS seafood thieves are cursing the one that got away after being caught themselves, but they've still managed to slip through a police net.

A member of the public called police about a van acting suspiciously at a seafood outlet on Tapleys Hill Rd, Fulham Gardens, about 1.40am.

When a patrol arrived, a white van with two men in it drove off with police following.

"The van pulled over and the driver and passenger got out and walked towards the police car," police spokesman Senior Constable Tim Dodds said.

They then turned and ran back to the van and drove off with police in pursuit.

A short time later, the van pulled over on Tapleys Hill Rd and "reversed into the police car disabling it for a few minutes, before driving off", Sen-Const Dodds said.

The van was found two streets away but despite a search by police, including the dog squad, the occupants of the vans were not found.

Inside police found 60 boxes of frozen prawns and fish worth about \$15,000, it is unknown if the van was stolen, any witnesses are asked to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

<http://www.borderwatch.com.au/archives/1518>

The Border Watch

Lobster catch rates concern fishermen

Posted on October 15, 2008, 6:06am and updated on October 16, 2008 at 9:00 am

A Port MacDonnell fishing leader has warned of possible turbulent times ahead for the region's \$191m rock lobster fishery, following catch rates for the opening month slumping to the lowest ebb in living memory.

It is understood catch rates for October have plummeted by 40pc across the South East coastline, as commercial fishers struggle to fill their pots with the lucrative export.

According to reports across the coastline, many fishermen have been pulling up empty pots during what is historically a bumper catch period for the fishery.

It is understood one fishermen pulled up 40 pots during one day out at sea, only to catch two lobsters.

While prices have skyrocketed to a record of \$90 per kilogram in some South East ports, Port MacDonnell Fishermen's Association president John Ashby said the slow catch rate was a "big worry" for the fishery.

"The high price is offsetting some of the pain," Mr Ashby said.

The fishery veteran warned of a looming "disaster" if the low catch rates continued for the remainder of the season.

He argued October was usually a bumper catch period for the fishery. Numbers were normally high because the fishery was left dormant for four months.

"There are a lot of empty pots being pulled up right across the coastline," Mr Ashby said.

He said it was too early to speculate whether it was due to sea conditions or the lack of lobster numbers in the water.

Mr Ashby said he was concerned over the future of the fishery, following catch rates declining over the past five consecutive years. For the first time since the quota system was introduced, the State Government - along with industry support - moved to lower the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) this season.

This followed scientific research showing the numbers of lobster juveniles had slumped to their lowest level in scientific history.

South East Professional Fishermen's Association president Joel Redman said the slow catch rates, along with high demand from China and the weakening Australian dollar, had triggered the record price.

But Mr Redman - who fishes from Southend - said it was "early days" to be worried about the slow catch rates.

"Things will improve," he said.

"But the price is fantastic - it is exceptional."

He said prices had slipped from \$90 per kilogram in some South East ports, easing back to around \$80 per kilogram. Meanwhile, Port MacDonnell fishing industry leader veteran Lionel Carrison said the prices were being pushed upwards because of high demand from the Chinese.

He said the slow catch rates were also contributing to the high prices.

"It has probably been the slowest start to the season on record," Mr Carrison said.

SANDRA MORELLO

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/10/15/2391736.htm>

Port Phillip dredging takes a break

Posted Wed Oct 15, 2008 1:04pm AEDT

Two of the dredging ships working on the channel deepening project in Melbourne's Port Phillip Bay will leave this week.

The Port of Melbourne Corporation's Chief Executive Stephen Bradford says the ships are not allowed to work in southern parts of the bay during the Christmas and New Year period.

"Part of the environmental management plan condition is that the port has to operate and does not allow any dredging in that period of time", Mr Bradford said.

The ships, called the CoZa and the Queen of the Netherlands, will travel to Singapore for maintenance.

<http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,24500573-661,00.html>

Bay dredger leaves Port Phillip Bay for maintenance over summer

Article from: [Herald Sun](#)

Matt Johnston

October 15, 2008 01:55pm

VICTORIAN beach-goers will play in a dredge-free bay for most of summer.

Port Phillip Bay tourism operators have applauded the announcement that the main channel deepening dredging vessels the Queen of the Netherlands and CoZa will head to Singapore on Friday.

The ships are booked in for scheduled maintenance, and while on Singapore dry docks the Queen will also have an extra 50 metres added to her body.

The Queen will return to the bay in March, while the CoZa will do some dredging in the bay's north in December before taking a break until February.

The dredging vessels are banned from operating in the bay during most of December and January, but the maintenance work in Singapore will mean the south of the bay will be dredge-free for at least an extra month.

Port of Melbourne Corporation chief executive Stephen Bradford said the departure of the two ocean giants would not affect the project's timeline and the dredging of the bay would still be completed by December 2009 on budget.

Mr Bradford said the dredgers' holiday would be good for tourist operators.

"The original concern was that turbidity around the dredge was an inconvenience to bay users and holiday makers around Portsea, Sorrento and Rye in the Christmas period, and that is obviously a peak period for that part of Victoria," Mr Bradford said.

"Part of the environmental conditions that the Port has to operate does now allow any dredging in that time."

Mr Bradford said the water quality would be good during summer and there was no reason to worry about health risks.

Owner and operator of Polperro Dolphin Swims in Sorrento Judith Muir said the dredging should not be taking place at all, but that it was a relief the main ships would leave our shores during part of the summer.

But Ms Muir said the ban on dredging over summer should have been extended to include the full peak period.

"As an operator, I would prefer the dredging ceased until at least mid-April," Ms Muir said. Ms Muir said she swam regularly in the bay to keep fit for her business and the water quality had been affected by the dredging vessels.

"Some days I have to swim through conditions that are more like the Yarra but other days it is quite clear," Ms Muir said.

The Port of Melbourne Corporation said the condition of the bay was holding up well, but said there had been another oil spill this week. The spill was in the Yarra River on October 13 and was about 20 litres from a tug. Oil booms were deployed and the leak was contained.

Mr Bradford said no environmental damage had been done. He said there had been "six or seven" minor oil spills in the past eight months but they were not large enough to cause concern.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/10/13/2389154.htm>



Crayfish prices continue climb

Posted Mon Oct 13, 2008 11:17am AEDT

Prices paid for crayfish in south-east South Australia continued their steep climb at the weekend, topping the \$90 a kilo mark in some ports, smashing all previous highs.

Robe skipper Warren Ludwig says low catch rates would be contributing to the record prices, but fishermen are treating the figures with caution.

"Twenty-five years ago if you said the prices would be like they are I'd be very surprised. I don't think I'd like to be a processor, you only have to lose one cray and your profit's down the gurgler," he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200810/s2390357.htm>

Rock lobster price soars

Tuesday, 14/10/2008

The global credit crisis and lack of supply have forced the price of southern rock lobster to soar to record levels.

Prices reached \$90 a kilo over the weekend, a significant increase compared to last year's average prices of around \$40 a kilo.

Andrew Lawrie, from Skye Seafoods at Robe in South Australia's south-east, says he's surprised by both the price increase and the continued demand from export markets:

"Partially there's a little bit of shock at the price with our customers in China, but they're demanding the fish and that's pushing the price up because of the low supply," he says.

"But they've even surprised themselves with how high the price is going and are quite worried about where it can lead to."

<http://www.theherald.com.au/news/local/news/general/shark-shows-interest-in-lake-water-craft/1332365.aspx>

Fairfax Digital

Shark shows interest in Lake water craft

BY DAMON CRONSHAW AND DAN PROUDMAN

13/10/2008 10:55:00 PM



SHOT: Charlene Collinson took this picture of Gavin Hodge on the ski biscuit, and the shark fin behind him, off Wangi Wangi on Saturday. Inset: A closer photograph of the same fin taken a short time later by Mr Hodge.

A SHARK attack claim that a teenager made at the weekend was dismissed yesterday as a hoax, but pictures taken off Wangi Wangi reaffirmed that sharks do exist in Lake Macquarie.

James McAllister and friends photographed a shark off Wangi Wangi on Saturday morning.

Mr McAllister said he was waterskiing with friends when the one- to two-metre shark emerged.

"I just pulled my fiancee out of the water when it emerged about five metres from the front of the boat and started circling," Mr McAllister said.

"After we calmed our nerves, we kept biscuiting and it popped up again later."

Mr McAllister said the sighting would not deter him from waterskiing.

Mr McAllister believed the shark was a blacktip whaler but NSW Fisheries officer Warren Winter said it was probably a hammerhead.

"Blacktip sharks are not known to inhabit our waters," Mr Winter said.

"My bet is the shark is a hammerhead shark.

"I'm in the lake for 10 hours a day and I've only ever seen hammerheads."

He said shark attacks in the lake were "very rare".

Police had not decided yesterday how to deal with a teenager who fabricated a story about being attacked by a shark in Lake Macquarie on Sunday.

The boy, aged 15, told police that a four-metre shark had bitten a chunk out of his surfboard off Wangi Wangi.

Police initially believed the story until receiving information that it was a hoax.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/10/14/2391094.htm?site=darwin> **Indonesian fisherman 'looking for trepang, not lost boat'**

Posted October 14, 2008 18:44:00

An Indonesian fisherman who said he only entered Australian waters to look for a boat in distress has been found guilty of fisheries offences by a Northern Territory Supreme Court jury.

The 41-year-old fisherman was in charge of the Cigaro 07 when it was apprehended by the Australian Navy in April.

The wooden trepang boat was found in an area north of the exclusive Australian fishing zone, where it's legal for Indonesians to catch fish but not trepang off the sea floor.

In an interview with Australian authorities, the fisherman said on the night in question, there were big waves and strong winds and another small boat had suddenly disappeared.

He said he only entered the area he was caught in to search for it.

But the prosecution said he was caught 10 sailing hours away from where the boat went missing.

After less than two hours, the jury found him guilty.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/09/15/2364387.htm>



Authorities 'overreacting to Indonesian fishing'

Posted Mon Sep 15, 2008 9:33am AEST

Updated Mon Sep 15, 2008 11:39am AEST

- [Map: Darwin 0800](#)

An expert on Indonesia says a Northern Territory court's decision to throw out the case against three trepang fishermen is likely to cause quite a stir in the men's home of Kupang.

The men were put on trial for taking trepang in an area where Australia owns the sea floor.

But on Friday, a Supreme Court judge found there wasn't enough evidence to convict the fishermen and ordered a jury to set them free.

The men had always maintained their innocence and are now expected to seek compensation for the destruction of their boat.

Professor James Fox from the Australian National University says the fishermen's plight has caused demonstrations and a public outcry in Kupang, where there's a feeling Australia has treated the men harshly.

"They felt that the evidence, or the fact they'd over many years of fishing in this area had not violated any laws, that this was sort of over-extending Australia's enforcement."

He says the hasty destruction of boats needs to be looked at because it causes real hardship, even when the fishermen are found to be innocent.

"It's a very heavy blow if you lose a ship. Even if it's eventually compensated, you've lost the income for all that time that you don't have that boat."

He says 36 fishing boats have been seized from one village alone, and the policy of destroying foreign fishing boats as soon as they're seized should be reconsidered in the name of improving relations with Indonesia.

<http://www.app.com/article/20081011/SPORTS06/81011027/1002/SPORTS>



Fishermen opposed to regulations on eels

BY JOHN GEISER • CORRESPONDENT • OCTOBER 11, 2008

Fishermen — recreational and commercial — who harvest American eels or use eels for bait told the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission at a hearing in Nacote Creek last week that they are opposed to regulations not based on sound science.

James A. Donofrio, executive director of the Recreational Fishing Alliance, said regulators should get good data before upsetting or destroying the recreational and commercial fisheries that depend on American eels.

"The American eel is a premium live and rigged bait used by recreational fishermen primarily in the striped bass fishery," he said.

"The RFA is very much concerned that the proposed management options contained within Addendum II to the American eel management plan may disrupt the availability of bait eels and in turn have negative socio-economic impacts on the recreational striped bass fishery and potentially other important fisheries," he added.

The main thrust of the plan is to curtail the commercial harvest, but states are only now gathering information on that harvest.

"With the current limited information, it is impossible to determine the impact commercial eel fishing is having relative to the decline in eel abundance in East Coast streams," Donofrio said.

New Jersey has banned the harvest of elvers, the tiny, nearly transparent young eels returning from the Sargasso Sea to the streams of the state.

While some observers and biologists believe there are not as many large eels as there were, the evidence indicates that the number of elvers has remained steady in recent years.

Further, Donofrio said anecdotal information, supported by the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey, indicates anglers are actually catching more American eels when targeting other species, a sign that mature eels may be more abundant than they had been.

Joe Rizzo, president of the Shellfisheries Association and a member of the state Marine Fisheries Council, said the proposed regulations would ruin the commercial eel fishery and deny striped bass anglers this important bait.

"It would put all eel fishermen out of business," he said. "There is no science as usual. It's hard to comprehend how they can propose a plan like this without any data.

"Someone feels there are not enough silver eels migrating, and they come up with a plan that will basically put an end to all eel fishing," he continued.

"The number of elvers is not declining," he said. "There is no long-term trend of decline. In fact, two states on the East Coast still have elver fisheries.

"This whole thing is bogus," he said. "And what is very troubling is that they can come up with stuff like this with no data."

Most states have implemented mandatory reporting requirements for the commercial eel fishery, and there will be more data to work with in the future.

Donofrio said the RFA believes any fishery management plan should be based on sound scientific information, and no changes should be made until this information is available.

"We've seen too much regulation without supporting data in recent years," he added.

"The RFA is looking forward to this new data becoming available because it will provide an overview of when commercial fishermen are harvesting eels with regard to migration patterns," he emphasized.

"Furthermore, this will allow managers to produce a more accurate stock assessment and propose management options tailored to

the needs of the fish and fishery," he concluded.

Capt. Francis Bogan, skipper of the Paramount from Bogan's Basin, Brielle, said sea bass and porgy fishing was good last week on the inshore wrecks and reefs, and ling fishing was good in the Mud Hole.

Joe Barlow, Willingboro, had 20 keeper sea bass and 12 porgies, and Willie Williams, also of Willingboro, had 22 sea bass and 15 porgies. Fred Jones, Levittown, Pa., had 23 ling.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=28510&Cr=fishing&Cr1=>



UN NEWS CENTRE

Marine fishing industry losing \$50 billion annually, UN study finds



9 October 2008 – The world's marine fisheries are losing \$50 billion each year because of poor management, inefficiencies, and over-fishing, according to a new joint report released today by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (**FAO**) and the World Bank.

The study draws attention to industry issues and financial losses, which over the last three decades total over \$2 trillion, a figure roughly equivalent to the gross domestic product (GDP) of Italy.

"Right now, no one is winning," said Rolf Willmann, FAO Senior Fishery Planning Officer and one of the report writers, in a press release issued today. "Much of the industry is unprofitable, fish stocks are depleted and other sectors of the economy foot the bill for an ailing fishing industry."

But the report also argues that well-managed marine fisheries could turn most of these losses into sustainable economic benefits for millions of fisheries and coastal communities.

"It is not just about boats and fish. This report provides decision-makers with the economic arguments for the reforms needed," said the Fisheries Team Leader for the World Bank, Kieran Kelleher.

According to the study, the bulk of losses occur in two main ways: depleted fish stocks means there are fewer fish to catch, increasing the cost of finding and catching produce; and fleet over-capacity occurs, which means the economic benefits of fishing are decreased due to redundant investment and operating costs.

The study suggests strengthening of fishing rights, greater transparency in allocation of fish resources and greater public accountability for fisheries management as measures to restore and safeguard the industry.

"Sustainable fisheries require political will to replace incentives for over-fishing with incentives for responsible stewardship," said Mr. Kelleher. The FAO report offers policy initiatives to create profitable and sustainable fisheries.

News Tracker: past stories on this issue

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20081011/local/half-of-the-tuna-caught-last-year-was-illegal>

Saturday, 11th October 2008

Half of the tuna caught last year was illegal

Stocks at high risk of collapse

Ivan Camilleri, Brussels



The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) estimates that 51 per cent of all the blue fin tuna caught in the Mediterranean last year was illegal and unauthorised.

The under-reporting of blue fin tuna catches was stressed by the scientific body of the organisation, which is preparing for next month's crucial meeting where new quotas will be agreed upon for next year's fishery.

According to ICCAT's estimates, the total catch for 2007 amounted to 61,000 tonnes, when the agreed quota for that year was 29,500.

Scientists maintained that the bad state of the tuna fishery has not improved despite a recovery plan implemented over the past two years by countries fishing this species.

As part of its EU obligations, Malta is also implementing the recovery plan, which will see a reduction of 25 per cent of its quota over a four-year period.

The plan, adopted in 2006, was initially established to halt the decline of the blue fin tuna population in the Mediterranean.

However, the scientific committee, after evaluating the plan's potential effects and its application during the last two fishing seasons, concluded that mortality from fishing continues to be too high, more than three times what is estimated to be sustainable.

Stocks are at high risk of collapse, which would have serious consequences for fisheries.

Xavier Pastor, the director of Oceana, an organisation that works to protect the world's oceans, said that drastic measures have to be taken next month if blue fin tuna is to be saved. "Scientists have made the situation clear and now it is necessary for ICCAT and all the states involved in blue fin tuna exploitation to act in order to halt the decline and prevent a collapse. Drastic measures should be adopted, such as closing the Mediterranean tuna fishery from June to August, the blue fin tuna's reproductive months."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/10/10/2388104.htm?site=darwin>

Fisherman denies taking Australian trepang

Posted October 10, 2008 18:24:00

The Northern Territory Supreme Court trial of an Indonesian man accused of fishing illegally has been played a videotape of an interview he did with authorities shortly after he was arrested.

The 41-year-old fisherman was the master of an Indonesian fishing boat picked up by the navy in April this year.

The boat wasn't in Australian waters, but an area further north where Australia owns the sea floor, where trepang live, but Indonesia owns the sea.

In his record of interview, the master agreed he had trepang fishing gear on board but denied he'd taken any from that area.

He said he's been told by Australian authorities in the past he couldn't take trepang from the area he was caught in, but he could enter it and move around.

In his opening address to the jury, the prosecutor said the man had claimed he only crossed the treaty line to look for another boat.

The trial continues on Monday.