



STATEMENT

For immediate release

March 26, 2019

Statement From Vessel Re: Yesterday's Shark Incident

Statement regarding yesterday's events involving the vessel 'DeLisle' on Block Reef following reports of a shark incident.

The vessel's management have been in constant contact with those affected and wish the crew member a rapid recovery. We ask that the privacy of those onboard be maintained.

Contrary to reports, the vessel was not at Hardy Reef, but at Block Reef about 10 nautical miles away.

A spokesperson for the vessel said:

"At around 12:15 two crew members entered the water to assess the conditions before leading guests on a snorkelling tour of the reef. It was a clear day with good visibility and good light.

They had been in approximately 3 metres of water clearing their masks when the First Mate of the vessel received a bite wound in the leg from what the crew identified as a Grey Reef Whaler approximately 1.5 metres in length.

The crew member was immediately returned to the vessel and received first aid whilst emergency services were contacted. He was then airlifted to hospital. We thank QAS for their speedy response.

Such incidents are rare and it is likely the animal was startled by the disturbance.

Our crew and the Hardy Reef pontoon were calm and efficient throughout the process and we thank them for their exemplary work."

- ENDS -

About Tourism Whitsundays: *Tourism Whitsundays (TW) is the organisation responsible for destination marketing and visitor attraction for the Whitsunday region. It is the lead agency recognised by Tourism and Events Queensland and the Whitsunday Regional Council to lead the promotion of the region as a tourism destination. Tourism Whitsundays markets all aspects of the region including the Great Barrier Reef, Whitsunday Islands and Coast, accommodation, boating and sailing, fishing, touring, recreational activities, adventure, dining, shopping, weddings and honeymoons, conferencing and business events.*

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