



**HAUL:** Leon Bekker of George, wearing sunglasses, says that he did not haul the great white shark on to the rocks after he had hooked it. *Pictures: OCEANS INITIATIVE*

## '100 photos' show shark being landed on rocks

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I greeted them," said Bekker.

"We have over 100 photographs showing the sequence of what happened. About three photos show him with his thumbs up, staying in one position," said Mossel Bay shark researcher Enrico Gennari.

Gennari and researcher Ryan Johnson said there were photographs of Bekker's catches at a George sports shop.

"There were at least 12 different sharks he was posing with at the sports shop, big photos," Gennari said. "But they wouldn't let us photograph them. Now they've taken some down."

It is illegal to kill or target great whites – listed as vulnerable to extinction – for sport. No one has been prosecuted.

At the time of the incident on Friday, Gennari telephoned the local law enforcement officer from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, but he never arrived at the scene.

Yesterday fisheries spokesman Hein Wyngaard said the department condemned the incident "in the strongest terms and once we have established whether there was any wrongdoing on our side we will take the necessary steps".

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