

ACTIVITY: Scuba diving for scallops

CASE: GSAF 1987.09.18

DATE: Friday September 18, 1987

LOCATION: The attack took place in St. Vincent Gulf off Marino Rocks, South Australia.

NAME: Terry Gibson

DESCRIPTION: He was a 47-year-old male from Seaford, a professional diver. Gibson was part-owner of the Southern Diving Centre at Christies Beach, and, according to his family, he lived for diving and cycling. He had five children ages 15 to 21. He began diving in the UK when he was 22-years-old and dived regularly about twice a week. His three sons, all avid surfers, were out Sunday morning searching the area where their father disappeared.

BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT: At Marino Rocks the sandy beaches of the Adelaide plains begin to give way to the Fleurieu Peninsula. Dunes, cliffs, reefs, and beaches nestled between rocky points define the landscape.

NARRATIVE: On Friday Gibson had gone on one of his regular "working dives" to collect scallops. "He preferred to dive alone because with other people around he was always worried about what they would do," said his wife. Early Friday night Gibson's boat was found 600 metres offshore, approximately two kilometres south of the Seacliff Yacht Club. About 10.15 p.m. police divers found a face mask and three bags of scallops.

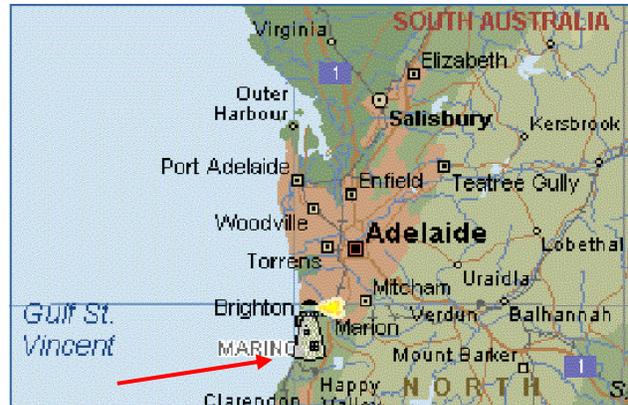
On Saturday, a search by water police, Star force divers, the Sea Rescue Squadron and helicopters found a diver's air tank, a diving boot, a buoyancy vest and a locked diver's weight belt. The vest and belt had damage consistent with that caused in known shark attacks.

INJURY: Presumed fatal. Police called off the search on September 22.

SPECIES: The attack was thought to involve a white shark. A three-metre white shark had been sighted several times in the area during the week by fishermen.

SOURCES: The Advertiser, Monday September 21, 1987, page 1; The Canberra Times, September 21, 1987, page 7; Sun, September 21, 1987, page 7, September 23, 1987, page 21; and September 25, 1987, page 23.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Phil Kemp, GSAF



Marino Rocks, Brighton & Glenelg in the distance

Wife wants sharks left alone

ADELAIDE: The wife of missing scuba diver Mr Terry Gibson, believed taken by a shark, has urged fishermen not to seek revenge for her husband by needlessly killing sharks.

Mrs Lynette Gibson said her family had nothing against sharks and she did not want to see the fish hunted down.

Police and local fishermen believe Mr Gibson, 47, could have been attacked by a white pointer reported over the past two weeks in the area where he vanished off suburban Marino beach on Friday.

Police divers found Mr Gibson's weight belt and air tank, at-

tached to a ripped buoyancy vest, which was further evidence a shark could be responsible for his disappearance.

Mrs Gibson said she did not want to see a repeat of a shark hunt which took place after mother of four Mrs Shirley Ann Durdin was bitten in two and devoured near Port Lincoln on the state's west coast in 1985.

"Sharks are part of nature," Mrs Gibson said.

"I think by going out and saying to kill them, then you're giving human qualities to an animal which is only out there to survive."

Mrs Gibson said her husband

was an experienced diver and was aware of the risk from sharks.

"He thought that was part of the business of being a diver, knowing whether sharks were around," she said.

Police searched beaches near Marino and an enlarged sea area for Mr Gibson yesterday, but nothing was found and the search was called off at lunchtime.

A police spokesman said the search, which involved patrol boats and helicopters, would resume tomorrow morning.

The spokesman said while evidence pointed to shark attack, it would be up to the coroner to determine the cause of Mr Gibson's disappearance.