

ACTIVITY: Scuba diving
CASE: [GSAF 1997.02.28.a](#)
DATE: Friday February 28, 1997
LOCATION: The incident took place at Ravens Cove near Hook Island in the Whitsundays, Queensland, Australia.

NAME: Gerald Rauch
DESCRIPTION: He is a 30-year-old male from Brunek in northern Italy.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Third Quarter, March 2, 1997
TIME: Midday



NARRATIVE: The diver was near the surface when the incident took place. “He felt something on his arm and the next thing he turned around and was face-to-face with a shark,” said ambulance officer Ron Sapir.

INJURY: He sustained tendon and nerve damage in his left arm. “There was a substantial injury halfway down his upper arm and forearm,” said Sgt. Mike Saunders of the Whitsunday police.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: The diver was helped to a boat where the divemaster provided first aid. The diver was taken to nearby Hayman Island where resort doctors stabilized his condition until a Queensland Emergency Services helicopter arrived and transported him to Townsville General Hospital.

SPECIES: The dive boat crew believed the incident involved a whitetip reef shark, common in the inlet where Rauch was diving, however, later reports attributed the bite to a tiger shark, two to three metres in length.

SOURCES: The Advertiser, March 1, 1997, page 12; Courier-Mail, March 3, 1997

Diver, swimmer hurt in separate shark attacks

A man had an arm savaged and a woman suffered cuts to a leg in separate shark attacks in Queensland yesterday.

An Italian tourist, 30, was attacked by a 3m shark before midday while he was scuba diving at Hook Island, in the Whitsundays.

He was taken by helicopter to Townsville for hospital treatment.

Whitsunday Water Police officer-in-charge Sergeant Mike Saunders said the man suffered severe injuries to his upper and lower left arm. "He was doing some surface navigation off a dive charter vessel and the shark came up behind him and bit him on the left arm," he said.

The second attack happened in the Nerang River at Carrara, on the Gold Coast. Police said a woman, 21, was bitten on the left leg by what appeared to be a small shark while she was swimming outside the water sports complex.

SOURCE: The Advertiser, Saturday March 1, 1997, Page 12