

Papamoa Beach



CASE: GSAF 1999.01.07

DATE: Thursday January 7, 1999

LOCATION: Papamoa, near Tauranga, Bay of Plenty, North Island, New Zealand

BOAT: Inflatable boat

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Third Quarter, January 10, 1999

NARRATIVE: See press clipping

INJURY: No injury to occupant

SPECIES: Not recorded

SOURCE: The Dominion, January 8, 1999, page 3

The Dominion, January 8, 1999, page 3

Shark bites man's boat

A shark attack on a rubber boat off Papamoa, near Tauranga, yesterday and a sighting on Wednesday have Bay of Plenty lifeguards on high alert.

The Papamoa service's emergency call-out squad received a call from the police early yesterday alerting them to the plight of a man whose inflatable boat had been bitten by a shark. Papamoa head guard Doug Ryan said the squad sent a boat to search for the man, but after a few minutes police told them that the man had managed to get back to shore. The man and what remained of his boat had disappeared before police could make contact.

The attack followed a sighting at Papamoa beach on Wednesday when a shark had been spotted feeding on crabs about five metres from shore. "We warned a few swimmers and then sent out an inflatable boat to buzz the area," Mr Ryan said. "They don't seem to like the sound of the motor and usually swim away."

Mr Ryan said the two incidents, as well as a shark sighting on Tuesday, meant lifeguards would be keeping a close eye on the beach during the next few days. "Surveillance will be extremely high," he said. "We will keep swimmers advised as well." -- NZPA