

ACTIVITY: Kayaking

CASE: GSAF 2001.01.06

DATE: Saturday January 6, 2000

LOCATION: The incident took place between Sandy Bay and Whananaki on Northland's east coast, North Island, New Zealand. 36°29' S, 174°26' E



NAME: Dr. Michael Hogan

KAYAK: Hogan was paddling a bright yellow kayak.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, January 3, 2001

ENVIRONMENT: This summer, great whites were spotted in Whitianga and near Maketu in the Eastern Bay of Plenty. Last month, a 2.6-metre shark was caught in a net 300 metres off the Takapuna Beach boat ramp, and on Friday experienced fishermen though they saw a white shark 500 metres from shore in nearby Hahei.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 1.5 kilometres



NARRATIVE: Hogan on his way to get paua (abalone) when his kayak was lifted and he was dumped into the sea. "There was just this explosive 'whumpf' noise and then I fell out," he said. He saw a grey-green shape swimming away but was more concerned with keeping hold of his paddle. "I thought it couldn't have been a shark because I didn't see any fin and then it just disappeared."

Kayaking buddy Hugh Oakley-Browne, was 50m away when he heard a noise, "like a 'thunk'", and looked over just as Hogan's kayak was starting to flip. "There was something grey attached to it that wasn't on it when we left," he said. He paddled over to Dr Hogan and noticed a long, deep gouge in the bottom of his kayak. "I checked that he still had his legs, which were dangling in the water, and then I helped him get back in." The two kayakers continued to Whananaki but hugged the coastline on their way back.

INJURY: No injury

DAMAGE TO KAYAK: There was a clearly-visible bite mark on the bottom of the kayak. The bite punctured the tough plastic on either side of the hull and measures about 45 centimetres from the top outline of the jaw to the bottom.

SPECIES: According to Department of Conservation marine scientist Clinton Duffy, the incident involved a white shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, about four metres in length. "There's really nothing else that could do it," he said. He had never heard of a kayak being attacked in New Zealand waters, noted that a shark punctured an inflatable boat some years ago in a similar incident.

SOURCE: Clinton Duffy



Family Haliotidae
Shells known as paua in New Zealand,
abalone in the USA,
and perlemoen in South Africa