

ACTIVITY: Windsurfing or Kitesurfing
CASE: GSAF 2003.04.11
DATE: Friday April 11, 2003
LOCATION: El Yaque Beach, Isla de Margarita, Nueva Esparta, Venezuela.
10°,30'N, 64°10'W



NAME: Yann Perras

DESCRIPTION: The surfer is a 28-year-old civil engineer from France. He is an experienced surfer and was vacationing with his wife and six-month-old daughter.



Yann Perras

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, April 16, 2003

ENVIRONMENT: Isla de Margarita (*Margarita Island*) is a mountainous island located about 40 miles north of the Venezuela mainland. Together with Isla de Coche and Isla de Cubagua, it forms the Venezuelan state of Nueva Esparta.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: Two kilometres

NARRATIVE: Perras was fixing his board while waiting for a wave, when he felt the shark grasp his right foot. Two German yachtsmen spotted his predicament and pulled him to safety on the beach.

INJURY: The surfer's right foot was bitten and his left leg was severed by the shark.

TREATMENT: First aid was given by a doctor who was bathing at the beach, and then by local firefighters who transported him to the hospital where he underwent surgery. He remained in a clinic for a week, and then returned home to France.

SPECIES INVOLVED: The incident was said to involve a mako shark, three metres in length.

REPORTED BY: Patrick O'Donoghue

NOTE: In 2010, accompanied by shark attack survivors from five countries, Yann Perras spoke with members of government delegations to the United Nations on the importance of creating stronger international shark protections. "I refuse to let my personal tragedy be compounded by another far greater one," he says. "It's time for the international community to stop the senseless slaughter of sharks. Misplaced fear of these animals is no excuse for allowing fishing practices that are both cruel and threaten the natural balance of life in our oceans."

CASE INVESTIGATORS: Marie Levine & Erich Ritter, Ph.D., GSAF

