

ACTIVITY: Unknown

CASE: **GSF 2005.03.10**

DATE: Thursday March 10, 2005

LOCATION: The body washed ashore near the mouth of the Isipingo River in the Ethekewini municipal area of Isipingo, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

NAME: Anthony Arnachallan

DESCRIPTION: He was a 51-year-old male from Chatsworth.



BACKGROUND

WEATHER: There were 30-knot gale force southwesterly winds for 48 hours prior to discovery of the body.

SEA CONDITIONS: Rivers in the area were flood after heavy rains and water at the river mouth was dirty, brown and very murky.

ENVIRONMENT: "All the shark nets are probably tangled (due to prevailing sea conditions)," said Jace Govender, spokesperson from Nokia Sea Rescue helicopter based in Durban. The high winds and sea conditions shifted shark nets in the area along the Durban coastline. "Swimming has been banned until we are told that the shark nets are back in place," he said.

NARRATIVE: When Mr. Arnachallan's body drifted ashore on the high tide there were two bites from a large shark on his right leg. The body was spotted around 09h00 on Friday morning by a fisherman who alerted emergency services, said Craig Lambinon of the National Sea Rescue Institute.

INJURY: Authorities determined that the body had been in the water for about 12 hours, and cause of death was due to a spinal injury. "He definitely died of spinal injuries after he was hit with a blunt object on the back of the neck" said Govender, but he said it was not known if Arnachallan was bitten before or after he injured his spine. An autopsy on the body will be performed to determine if the person drowned first and was then bitten by the shark, or if this was an aggressive shark attack. However, there were indications that this was an "aggressive attack", according to Govender. The incident has been logged as a "questionable incident" by the Global Shark Accident File, pending an autopsy report.

SPECIES INVOLVED: According to the Govender, the bite pattern appeared to that of a tiger shark about 2.5 metres in length

SOURCES: Jace Govender; Craig Lambinon; SAPA