

**ACTIVITY:** Snorkeling

**CASE:** GSAF 2005.03.19

**DATE:** Saturday March 19, 2005

**LOCATION:** The attack took place in the Indian Ocean off Wreck Point, located in the south-east corner of Pelsaert Island in the Houtman Abrolhos Islands, Western Australia.

28°56'S, 113°59'W

**NAME:** Geoffrey Brazier

**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 26-year-old male, the skipper of the 24-metre luxury catamaran *Matrix*. The vessel, owned by Henderson-based Matrix Ocean Adventures, left Fremantle on Thursday with 13 people on board and was on its maiden voyage to the Kimberley to operate 12-day trips between Broome and Wyndham.



*Geoffrey Brazier*

*Photo provided by police*

### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** First Quarter, March 18, 2005

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The warm Leeuwin current maintains water temperature at around 20° to 22°C.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Coroner Stephen Sharrat said no one was spearfishing and there was no bait or berley in the water when the attack took place.

**TIME:** 14h00

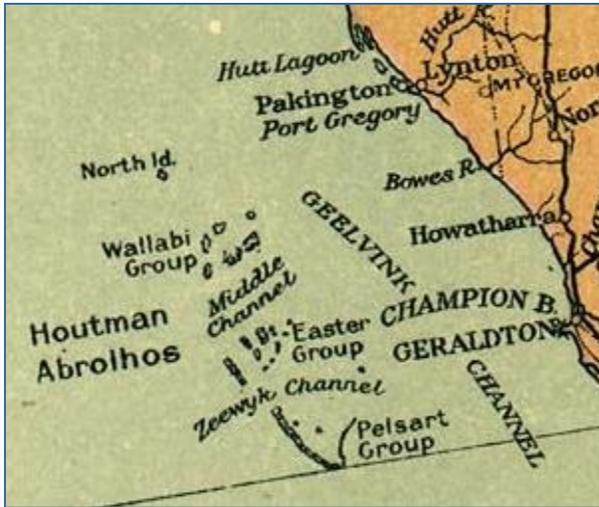
**NARRATIVE:** Geoffrey Brazier, was snorkeling with two tourists when he was killed by the shark.

**INJURY:** Fatal. At a coronal inquest it was determined that death was due to shark attack. According to Police Inspector George Putland, the man was bitten in half by the shark and killed instantly. A nearby Fisheries vessel, the *McLachlan*, was sent to the area to help in the search. An air and sea search of the area 37 miles west of the coastal town of Geraldton Sunday failed to find the shark or human remains

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** The attack involved a white shark. Rodney Plug, a witness to the attack, testified at the inquest that the shark was at least six metres in length.

**SOURCES:** Yahoo News, <http://au.news.yahoo.com/051208/21/x4pr.html>  
<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2005/03/19/1111086062716.html?from=top5>;  
[http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/1111323084226\\_22/?hub=World](http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/1111323084226_22/?hub=World);  
<http://www.theage.com.au/news/Breaking-News/Search-for-shark-attack-victims-remains/2005/03/20/1111253871389.html?oneclick=true>;  
[http://www.sundaytimes.news.com.au/common/story\\_page/0,7034,12603444%255E948,00.html](http://www.sundaytimes.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,7034,12603444%255E948,00.html)

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Terry Peake, GSAF



The Houtman Abrolhos Islands are a meeting place for tropical and temperate sealife. They consist of 122 islands that lie about 60 kilometers off Geraldton, Western Australia, and extend from north to south across 100 kilometres of ocean.

The Abrolhos are clustered into three main groups: the Wallabi Group, Easter Group and Pelsaert Group, the southernmost of the three groups of islands.



A number of ships have been wrecked on Half Moon Reef in the Pelsaert Group. The Ben Ledi wrecked off Pelsaert Island in 1879, which may be how Wreck Point got its name.



Pelsaert Island lies closer to the coast of Western Australia than other islands in the group. The air and sea search of the area where the diver was killed took place 37 miles west of Geraldton.