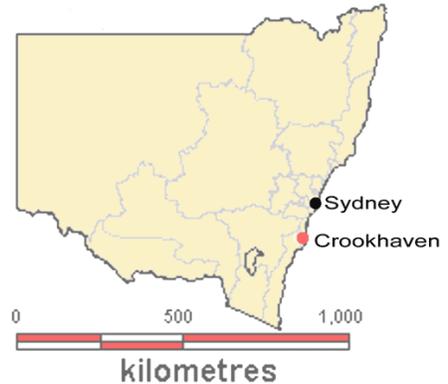


ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2005.04.17

DATE: Sunday April 17, 2005

LOCATION: The board was discovered Sunday morning floating in the water off Crookhaven, New South Wales. Crookhaven is located on the south coast of New South Wales and is eight kilometres south of where a shark patrol crew on Saturday reported seeing an empty board and a single blue swim fin at Walkers Beach, near Gerringong, on Saturday April 16, 2005.



NAME: Bradley Unknown

DESCRIPTION:

SURFBOARD: A red surfboard.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER:

SEA CONDITIONS:

ENVIRONMENT: On Saturday, April 16, 2005, a shark bit the board of a surfer at Bronte, north of Sydney.

Harry Mitchell from the McDonald's Aerial Patrol said swimmers should take these incidents as a warning. "I'm not sure what has happened with this board but combined with what happened in Sydney, it's only a matter of time before we have a fatality similar to those we have seen in South Australia and Western Australia," he said. "We have had a number of shark sightings this season and many have been close to shore."

DISTANCE FROM SHORE:

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE:

TIME:

NARRATIVE: The board was discovered Sunday morning floating in the water off Crookhaven, eight kilometres south of where a shark patrol crew on Saturday reported seeing an empty board and a single blue swim fin at Walkers Beach, near Gerringong, on Saturday.

Police searched the beach for possessions and are examining the board, but at this stage they have no reports of any missing surfers.

In this latest incident, Mr Mitchell said the shark patrol crew on Saturday logged the sighting of the board at Walkers Beach, an isolated beach south of Gerringong, at 13h00 [1 p.m.] "It was about 100 metres from the shore, but before they could investigate further they were called away to another job," Mr Mitchell said. "When they returned they thought they saw a blue flipper in the water but there was no sign of the board," he added. here was nobody on the beach at the time.



Photo by Wayne Venables

Shoalhaven Marine Rescue Association base manager Michael Beckett with the boogie board covered in what appears to be shark bites.

On Sunday, about 08h00, Mario Savocca, an officer from the Shoalhaven Marine Rescue Association, picked up a white and red (boogie board?) at the river entrance at Crookhaven Heads with bites and teeth marks on it.

DAMAGE TO SURBOARD: Base manager Michael Beckett said it looked like the board had been attacked by two different-sized sharks. "I've only ever seen pictures of boards which have been attacked by sharks and this was exactly the same," he said.

SPECIES INVOLVED: From the photograph in this report, one of the bite marks suggest a tiger shark bit the board.

SOURCE: Illawarra Mercury,
<http://www.illawarramercury.com.au/articles/2005/04/18/1113676677773.html>

NOTE: The press report refers to a boogie board, but the image they ran is that of a surfboard, not a boogie board.