

**ACTIVITY:** Swimming

**CASE:** [GSAF 2008.04.26.b](#)

**DATE:** Saturday April 26, 2008

**LOCATION:** The incident took place at Poindimié between the shore and the small island of Tibarama off the eastern coast of New Caledonia.  
*20°55'36.88"S, 165°22'16.74"E*

**NAME:** Olivier Vilain

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 32-year-old male.



*Tibarama Island*

### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** The sky was overcast and there was a light rain throughout most of the day, clearing briefly around 11h00. At 11h00, Poindimié recorded nine-mile visibility [15 km], air temperature of 77°F [25°C], dew point 74°F [23°C], humidity 87%, sea level pressure 29.94 in [1014 hPa], and wind direction was West at 4.6 mph [7.4 km/h].

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, April 20, 2008. Last Quarter, April 29, 2008.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** Strong rains had reduced underwater visibility.

**TIME:** Morning



**NARRATIVE:** Olivier Vilain had seen sharks while spearfishing and said that when he met sharks underwater, he watched and waited until they swam away. This time, however, he was swimming on the surface and was unaware of a shark in the area. "It bit only once before releasing me, and circled two or three times. I did not see the entire animal but according to its fin, I think it was a gray shark approximately 1.5 metres in length."

**INJURY:** Lacerations to left foot.

**TREATMENT:** Transported initially to the hospital of Poindimié, he was later transferred to Koumac where he underwent surgery the same afternoon. It was expected that his foot would remain in a splint for three weeks and he would require some rehabilitation sessions.

**SPECIES:** Claude Maillaud, emergency physician and specialist in shark attacks believed the swimmer had been bitten by a bull shark, an opinion confirmed by marine biologist Philippe Tirard on analysis of the photographs of the bite marks. "The tooth marks are very clear on the heel of the victim," said Tirard, who noted they showed characteristics of bull shark teeth and that the animal planted its lower jaw on the top of the foot of the victim. Tirard estimated the shark was 1,80 metres, possibly even 2 metres in length. Tirard believed the motivation of the shark was "territorial". "It did not attack to be nourished, but was probably irritated by the presence by the swimmer, if one can use a human analogy," he said.



## Elle se suicide en se jetant dans le port avec sa voiture

En page 3

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# Mordu par un requin



En page 2

Un nageur de 32 ans a été croqué au pied par un requin, samedi, à Poindimié, entre la côte et l'îlot Tibarama.



### Faits divers

**Un chauffeur de taxi caillassé perd un œil**

En page 4

### Dumbéa

**L'omelette fait recette**

En page 10

### Triathlon

**Double australien, Vernay 3<sup>e</sup>**

En page 20 et 31