



ACTIVITY: Spearfishing (on Scuba?)

CASE: [GSAF 2009.11.08](#)

DATE: Sunday November 8, 2009

LOCATION: The accident took place off Second Valley, on the Fleurieu Peninsula, about 95km from Adelaide, South Australia.

NAME: Dean Brougham

DESCRIPTION: He is a 25-year-old male, a novice spearfisherman. He was wearing a new wetsuit.



BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 10h30, Adelaide recorded clear skies. The air temperature was 92°F, dew point 42°F humidity 10%, sea level pressure 30.18 inches, and wind direction was NNE at 18.4 mph.

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was “crystal clear” according to the diver.

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 58% of the Moon was Illuminated.

ENVIRONMENT: Schools of fish were running through the gulf. Authorities said about 20 sharks were seen close to the shore during the day. There had been reports of large sharks in the area for weeks. Surf lifesavers chased a school of 20 bronze whaler sharks into deeper water and swimmers were advised to stay close to shore.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 20 metres

TIME: 10h30

NARRATIVE: Dean Brougham was spearfishing with friends and had been in the water only seven minutes when he felt a tug on his ankle and thought it was one of his mates fooling around. "My first thought was that someone's playing a trick tugging at my leg - until I turned around and saw the face," Dean said. "Then (I) just started punching it and pushing it off as soon as I could . . . I think I punched him in the mouth. I cut my hand up while I was trying to get him off."

"It didn't feel like my ankle was being hacked into, it just felt like it was getting grabbed." As soon as he was free, he swam away as fast as possible.

INJURY: The patient sustained lacerations to the left ankle, a defense wound to his hand. According to a South Australian Ambulance spokeswoman, they were "minor injuries".

TREATMENT: The patient was treated at the scene by a Sea Rescue crew and an off-duty paramedic, and taken to Southern Fleurieu Family Practice at Yankalilla where he was treated by Dr Brenton Martin. The patient was subsequently transported to the Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide for surgery.

SPECIES: According to witnesses, the shark may have been up to two metres in length.

SOURCE: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/11/09/2737744.htm?section=justin>

Frances Stewart, Adelaide Now, November 8, 2009,

http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,22606,26321059-2682,00.html?from=public_rss

Kim Wheatley, Adelaide Now, November 10, 2009,

<http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,22606,26325017-2682,00.html?from=public>

Jennifer Bennett, Wentworth Courier, November 19, 2009,

<http://wentworth-courier.whereilive.com.au/news/story/sharkwatch-gets-libs-support/>

Jesse Phillips, TrueLocalNews, November 20, 2009,

<http://manly-daily.whereilive.com.au/news/story/surfwatch-man-s-anger-at-gag-clause/>