

**ACTIVITY:** Diving for abalone

**CASE:** [GSAF 2011.02.17](#)

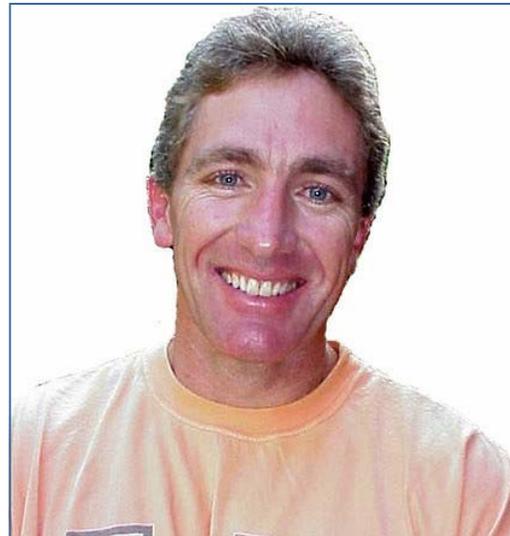
**DATE:** Thursday February 17, 2011

**LOCATION:** The attack took in an area known as "Lumps" south of Perforated Island. The island lies about 25km west of Coffin Bay at the foot of the Eyre Peninsula, Island, South Australia.

**NAME:** Peter Clarkson

**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 49-year-old male from Esperance. He was a highly experienced diver with a degree in zoology who had worked for years along the coast between South Australia's Port Lincoln and Esperance in Western Australia. It is not known if he was wearing a Shark Shield at his belt; he had used it earlier and written a testimonial for the device after an encounter with a white shark off Kalbarri in Western Australia.

**SUPPORT BOAT:** A 21 foot aluminium single hull boat with two outboard motors. An air compressor attached to a hookah airline was at the bow of the boat.



*Peter Clarkson*

#### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** There was a freshening southerly wind.

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, February 19, 2011.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The waves were up a metre in height.

**ENVIRONMENT:** The Point Avoid region is notoriously rough and known for sharks, and there had been a big increase in shark sightings in the preceding on the Lower Eyre Peninsula. Two weeks previously, ABC was told of one diver who ducked to avoid a five-metre white pointer. He was brushed by the shark as it swam away.

**DEPTH OF WATER:** 25 metres

**TIME:** 18h20

**NARRATIVE:** Clarkson was working with Howard Rodd from one of the aluminum-hulled boats that harvest the state's abalone fisheries. The diver was ascending when he was reportedly attacked by one or two sharks.

**INJURY:** Fatal. The diver's body was not recovered.

**SPECIES:** According to Howard Rodd, the attack involved two white sharks.

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Bob Myatt, Global Shark Accident File



*Map from Google*

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