

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** GSAF 2011.02.19

**DATE:** Saturday February 19, 2011

**LOCATION:** The attack took place in the Indian Ocean at Trois-Roches, Saint-Gilles, Réunion.

**NAME:** Eric Dargent

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 32- or 33-year-old male from Marseilles, France, who had just arrived on the island with his family.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** Although surfers reported that the waves were beautiful, the sea was turbid due to recent heavy rains.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Fishermen reported the presence of sharks off Roches-Noires. "With the dirty water pouring through the ravines, it is known that the risk is multiplied," said Matthew Schiller, a former bodyboarding champion "However, we must not demonize. It is more likely to have an accident than of being attacked by a shark."

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 30 yards

**TIME:** 18h30 dusk (Sunset was 19h30 )

**NARRATIVE:** Several surfers were in the water, but Dargent was alone behind the reef when he was bitten by a shark. "I had not seen a fin or any movement around my board," said Dargent. "Suddenly a shark attacked me from below and grabbed my leg. I struggled, then it tried to pull me to the bottom. I resisted. It let go."

**INJURY:** The shark severed Dargent's left leg at the knee.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** A bodyboarder and a surfer with a longboard heard Dargent scream, went to his aid and brought him to shore. A surfer, Lawrence Bocquée, placed a tourniquet to stem the bleeding. Firefighters and SMUR arrived shortly afterwards and took over management of the patient. The patient was conscious when he was transported by firefighters to Gabriel Martin de Saint-Paul Hospital. After three weeks, he was able to return to France where he located a rehabilitation center.



*Thanks to prosthetist, Tourret-Bertrand Couderc, Dargent is surfing again.*

**SPECIES:** On February 20, 2011, a 250-lb bull shark was caught by fishermen off the beach of Roches Noires in the area where the surfer was bitten, but there was no evidence that it was the fish involved in the attack.

**SOURCES:** Many, including the following –

Surfer

<http://www.surfermag.com/features/reunion-island-shark-attack/>

Clicanoo,

<http://www.clicanoo.re/11-actualites/16-faits-divers/274208-un-requin-bouledogue-capture-au.html>

Zinfos974,

[http://www.zinfos974.com/Grand-Fond-Le-requin-sectionne-la-jambe-due-surfeur\\_a25961.html](http://www.zinfos974.com/Grand-Fond-Le-requin-sectionne-la-jambe-due-surfeur_a25961.html)

SudOuest, September 28, 2015

<http://www.sudouest.fr/2015/09/27/eric-dargent-ou-la-rage-de-surfer-2136531-4037.php>



*Eric Dargent and his family*



*Fishermen with the 250-lb bull shark caught February 20, 2011 off Roches Noires*

Photo Raphaël



*September 24-27, 2015: Dargent represented France in the first-ever International Surfing Association (ISA) World Adaptive Surfing Championship that was held in LaJolla, California, USA.*