



ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2012.01.03](#)

DATE: January 3, 2012

LOCATION: North Avoca Beach, New South Wales, Australia.

NAME: Mike Wells

DESCRIPTION: He is a 28-year-old male, a local semi-professional surfer and surf shop employee.

BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT: Avoca Beach is located about 95 kilometres (59 mi) north of Sydney.

MOON PHASE: Waxing Gibbous, 66% of the Moon was illuminated. Full Moon, January 9, 2012

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ENVIRONMENT: The sea was dark and there were "lots of baitfish around".

TIME: Just before 20h00 (dusk)

NARRATIVE: Mike Wells was paddling when his arm in the water, which was beneath his board, was bitten. "He got himself back to the beach and that's when he raised the alarm," said an ambulance spokesman. Avoca and North Avoca beaches were closed but reopened at 09h00 the next day.

INJURY: The surfer sustained cuts and puncture wounds to his right forearm and wrist.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: The patient was treated on the beach and transported by ambulance to Gosford Hospital. A spokesman for Gosford Hospital said the surfer was in a satisfactory condition and that doctors were taking X-rays of his arm. Some of his injuries were sutured and antibiotics administered stitches. He was discharged from the hospital on January 4, 2012.



SPECIES: Witnesses report that the shark was brown and about 1.8 metres in length. Rick Parsons, president of the North Avoca Surf Lifesaving Club speculated that it might have been a bronze whaler, which was recently sighted at nearby Terrigal Beach. Next day three white sharks were spotted by the Westpac rescue helicopter at Copacabana beach, just a few beaches along from Avoca Beach. A Department of Primary Industries spokeswoman said shark researchers confirmed a 2.2-metre juvenile white shark was responsible, but added that it was an isolated incident.

SOURCES: The Daily Telegraph, January 3, 2012, <http://www.news.com.au/national/man-attacked-by-shark-on-central-coast/story-e6frfkvr-12262360>

Express Advocate, January 4, 2012, <http://express-advocate-wyong.whereilive.com.au/news/story/man-bitten-by-shark-at-north-avoca/>

ABC News, January 9, 2012, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-01-09/shark-attack/3764408>