

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2012.03.15

DATE: Thursday March 15, 2012

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Jensen Beach, Martin County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Frank Wacha

DESCRIPTION: He is a 61-year-old male and the owner of the Kona Beach Café which caters to surfers. Wacha has been surfing for 50 years. The television interview with him showed an off-white longboard several times but it was not clear if the board was the one Wacha was using or if it was a prop in the Kona Beach Café.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 15h54, Nettles Island on Jensen Beach recorded air temperature of 76.3°F, dew point 68.2°F, humidity 76%, sea level pressure 30.17 inches and wind direction was SE at 10mph

MOON PHASE: Last Quarter, 40% of the Moon was illuminated.

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea surface temperature at Lake Worth was 75.9 F.

TIME: 15h50

NARRATIVE: Frank Wacha was paddling on his board. His left arm was in the middle of a stroke and above the surface when a shark leapt from the water. "I was eye to eye with the shark," said Wacha. Then the shark bit down on his arm. "I just looked at it and said, 'Uh oh. That's not good. I better see if my arm still works,'" Wacha said. Wacha was able to stay on his board, paddle back to shore and ask lifeguards for help.

INJURY: The surfer's injuries were not life-threatening. His left arm was injured but he did not sustain any tendon or muscle damage.

TREATMENT: His wife took him to a hospital where his injury was sutured.

SPECIES: According to the surfer the incident may have involved a bull shark. He said the shark had a rounded snout and its head was about a foot wide. The shark was estimated to be five to six feet in length.

SOURCES: News Channel 5, March 15, 2012; News12, March 16, 2012; WPBF.com, March 16, 2012, <http://www.wpbf.com/news/south-florida/treasure-coast/Jensen-Beach-reopens-after-swimmer-bitten-by-shark/-/8882916/9365060/-/krkwi5z/-/>

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