

**ACTIVITY:** Scuba diving

**CASE:** GSAF 2012.03.31

**DATE:** Saturday March 31, 2012

**LOCATION:** The attack took place in Geographe Bay off Stratham Beach, 230 km [140 miles] south of Perth, Western Australia.

**NAME:** Peter Kurmann

**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 33-year-old male from Vasse. He is survived by his wife Debra, a respected Busselton councilor, and two young sons.

**SUPPORT BOAT:** A small open boat named *Vampire*.

### BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** At 08h00 Bunbury recorded cloudy skies. The air temperature was 59°F, dew point 50°F, humidity 71%, sea level pressure 30.08 inches and wind direction was NNW at 7 mph. At 11h00 the sky was still cloudy, air temperature 70°F, dew point 57°F, humidity 63%, sea level pressure 30.06 inches and wind direction was NW at 14mph.

**MOON PHASE:** First Quarter, 58% of the Moon was illuminated.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** Underwater visibility was limited.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Stratham Beach is popular with cray fishers.

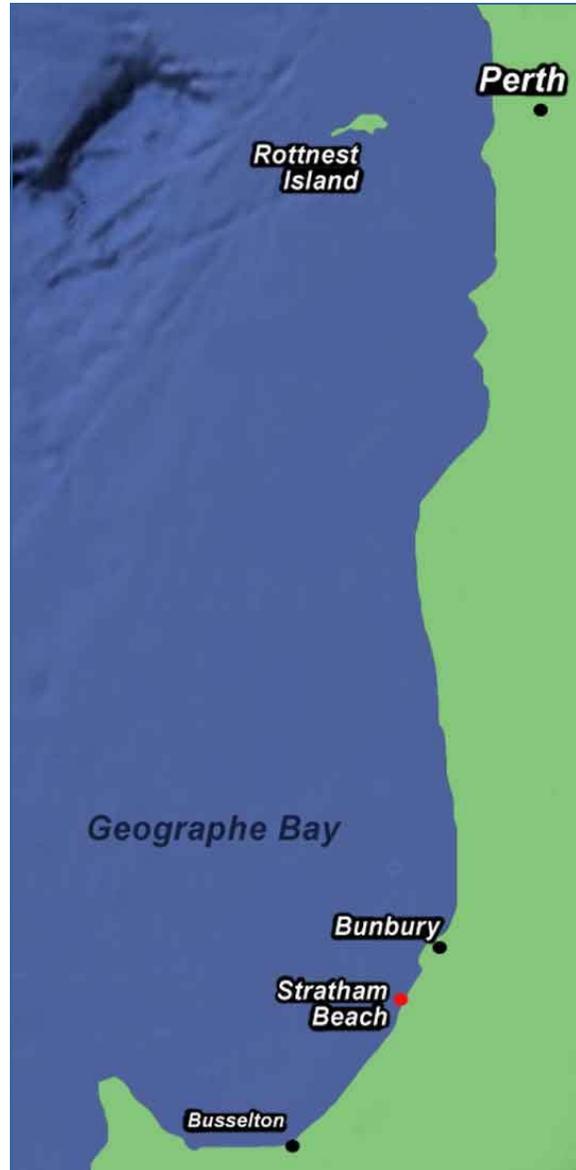
**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 1.8km

**TIME:** 09h30

**NARRATIVE:** Peter Kurmann, and his 34-year-old brother Gian Kurmann were diving for crayfish off Stratham Beach, when Peter was attacked by a shark.

Dunsborough police OIC Sergeant Craig Anderson, who was at the Port Geographe Marina, near the town of Busselton when the attack took place, is a veteran of three fatal shark attacks in the South West in the past two years and was called in to offer advice. He was in charge of the investigation of Kyle Burden's death, (GSAF 2011.09.04) and also investigated when surfer Nicholas Edwards (GSAF 2010.08,17) was fatally mauled at Gracetown.

**INJURY:** Fatal. The body was recovered by his brother, helped by the crew of a nearby boat, and taken south to the town of Busselton.



**SPECIES:** A Department of Fisheries scientist has advised police that, based on his experience, evidence he has examined indicates that a white shark was by all signs responsible for the attack. Shark Response Unit spokesman Tony Cappelluti reportedly said. "It wasn't possible for the scientist to confirm the estimated size of the shark, but information given to police suggests it was around four meters [13 feet] length."

**NOTE:** Cappelluti said three set-lines were put in the water to try to catch any sharks that remained in the vicinity, after an aerial patrol spotted a 10-13-foot shark at 14h30 on Saturday. On Sunday heavy weather and choppy seas prevented resetting set-lines. Beaches were closed between Cape Naturaliste and Bunbury pending further safety assessments by local authorities.

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Terry Peake, GSAF

**SOURCES:** Associated Press, March 31, 2012, ABC News, April 1 & 2, 2012; Courier Mail, April 6, 2012; The West Australian, April 3, 2012, <http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/breaking/13327100/fisherman-praises-shark-victims-brother/>



*Peter Kurmann with his sons:  
Felix & Nicholas,*



*A police officer on board the boat that was  
being used by Peter and Gian Kurmann*