

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2012.08.05

DATE: Sunday August 5, 2012

LOCATION: The accident took place in the Indian Ocean at St. Leu on the west coast of Reunion Island.

NAME: Fabien Bujon

DESCRIPTION: He is a 39-year-old male and a very experienced surfer. He has two children, one of whom is a world-class surfer.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 17h30, Saint-Denis recorded partly cloudy skies and 6.2-mile visibility. The air temperature was 75.2°F, dew point 66.2°F, humidity 73%, sea level pressure 30.6 inches, and wind direction was East at 11.5 mph.

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 88% of the Moon was illuminated. Full Moon, August 2, 2012.

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was “moderately cloudy” at the time of the accident.

ENVIRONMENT: Reunion Island is the top of an undersea mountain and, as such, provides marine habitats for many species. In addition, its overburdened sewage treatment facilities and runoff from rivers and farms dump nutrients into the ocean.

TIME: 17h17

NARRATIVE: Fabien Bujon was surfing for 30 minutes when he was injured by a shark. Using his board, he managed to paddle to shore.

INJURY: The surfer’s right hand and foot were severed by the shark.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: A doctor who happened to be on the beach applied first aid and used a tourniquet to stop blood loss. Medical services (MICU) arrived on scene within 10 minutes of the patient reaching the beach. After the patient had been stabilized, he was transported by ambulance to University Hospital Saint-Pierre, arriving there at 18h00. At the hospital, he underwent surgery.

SPECIES: Said to involve a bull shark. On August 7, 2012, Secretary General of the prefecture, Xavier Brunetiere, announced that a total of 10 tiger sharks and 10 bull sharks were to be caught in August, and that a total of 45 sharks would have to be tested. He said it was a science-based fishing study to assess the risk of ciguatera poisoning from eating the flesh of these two species.

