



ACTIVITY: Spearfishing / Free diving

CASE: GSAF 2013.01.05

DATE: Saturday January 5, 2013

LOCATION: Legendre Island, Western Australia, Australia.

Latitude -20.36, Longitude 116.84

NAME: Jake Swaffer

DESCRIPTION: He is a 26-year-old male from Karratha.



Jake Swaffer

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 10h00, the weather station on Legendre Island recorded air temperature of 32.8°C, dew point 24.6°C, humidity 62%, sea level pressure 1006.6 hPa, and wind direction was NNE at 11 km/h.

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 50% of the Moon was illuminated.

ENVIRONMENT: Legendre Island is 20 nautical miles north of Dampier.

TIME: 10h00

NARRATIVE: He was spearfishing with a mate and had just shot a fish. He was on the surface when a shark “hit him hard”, grabbing his left calf. He pushed the shark away and swam to the boat. When the boat reached the dock, he was met his fiancée, Jody. He was being driven to nearby Nickol Bay hospital in Karratha by friends when the car was pulled over on the Dampier Highway for speeding by local officers. When the officers learned of the man had been bitten by a shark and enroute to hospital, they did not issue a ticket and assisted him instead.

INJURY: The diver sustained two bites to his left calf some of which were six cm deep that narrowly missed two arteries, and five punctures to the top of his shin.



TREATMENT: He was transported by car to Nickol Bay Hospital in Karratha. Later, he was flown 1,544 kilometers from Karratha to Perth by the Royal Flying Doctor Service. In Perth, his injury was treated at Royal Perth Hospital and he was released.

SPECIES: The diver saw a hammerhead shark nearby, but believes the incident involved another species about 10 feet in length.

Australia police have mercy on Shark attack victim

A traffic patrol officer who pulled over a car on Australia's west coast let the driver off a speeding ticket after he learned a passenger aboard was a bleeding shark-attack victim, the Western Australian Police said.

The 26-year-old was bitten Saturday by a hammerhead shark while diving at Legendre Island, 40 kilometres north of Dampier, and was being rushed to hospital in Karratha. He was later flown 1,544 kilometres from Karratha to Perth by the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

"The victim was in the passenger seat," a police spokeswoman said, noting that the injuries were serious enough for evacuation to Perth but were not considered life-threatening. She confirmed that no speeding ticket was issued

SOURCE: The Sowetan, January 7, 2013, <http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/world/2013/01/07/australia-police-have-mercy-on-shark-attack-victim>

Diver's lucky escape after shark bite

A MAN has escaped with just a bite to his leg after a close encounter with a hammerhead shark near Dampier at the weekend. News of the 26-year-old man's great escape has only emerged this morning, after the attack on Saturday about 20 nautical miles north of Dampier, which is situated more than 1500km north of Perth.

Police say the man, from Karratha, was free diving near Legendre Island about 10am on Saturday when he was bitten by the shark, believed to be a hammerhead. "He was on the surface when he was bitten by a shark on the calf," a police spokesman said. "He made his way back to land and was conveyed to hospital by friends." It's understood the young man was initially treated at Nickol Bay Hospital in Karratha for non life-threatening injuries. PerthNow understands he was later transferred to Royal Perth Hospital by the Royal Flying Doctors Service and he has since been released.

SOURCE: Phil Hickey, PerthNow, January 7, 2013, <http://www.perthnow.com.au/news/western-australia/divers-lucky-escape-after-shark-bite/story-e6frg13u-1226549007194>