

ACTIVITY: Diving for abalone

CASE: [GSAF 2013.10.08](#)

DATE: Tuesday October 8, 2013

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Indian Ocean in a remote area known as Poison Creek, Cape Arid National Park, 180 km east of Esperance, Western Australia.

NAME: Greg Pickering

DESCRIPTION: He is a 55-year-old male, an employee of the Esperance-based Southern Wild Abalone, the states largest abalone processor. Pickering has been diving for abalone for about 40 years. He was bitten by a bronze whaler shark in 2004, and made news headlines in 2009 when the boat he was diving from capsized and he spent three hours in the water with the deckhand before being rescued.



BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 12% of the Moon was illuminated. New Moon, October 5, 2013.

ENVIRONMENT: The divers often camped for a few days at a time while working off Poison Creek, rather than drive for two hours each night back to Esperance.

DISTANCE TO SHORE: Approximately five miles

DISTANCE TO BOAT: 20 metres

TIME: 10h30

NARRATIVE: Pickering was gathering abalone when he was bitten by a shark. He managed to surface and attract the attention of other divers who helped him into a boat.

INJURY: The shark bit his torso, also injuring his shoulders and causing minor injuries to his head and face.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Pickering's rescue was a marathon effort! The crew another diving vessel, who were close by and witnessed the attack, came to the aid of the diver and his crew and controlled blood loss. They towed the man and his boat to shore where an ambulance from Condingup with four-wheel-drive capabilities negotiated a rugged track to reach him. (Poison Creek can only be reached by vehicles with four-wheel drive). The ambulance transported him to a hospital Esperance, arriving there about 14h00. Then the Royal Flying Doctor Service flew him 700 km from the hospital in Esperance to Perth, at 20h30, he underwent surgery in the Royal Perth Hospital, and was discharged on October 14, 2013.

SPECIES: The incident was said to involve a white shark. An order to catch and kill the shark was issued by the Department of Fisheries but was cancelled next day by director general Stuart Smith when the department concluded the risk of an imminent threat to the public had passed. "There have been no further sightings of a white shark in the area and it is likely that the shark responsible for the attack is no longer in this general locality," Mr Smith said in issuing the cancellation.



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SHARK ATTACK

Diver bitten twice

By Nick Taylor and Joe Kelly

A DIVER was attacked twice by a shark off Cervantes yesterday.

The 47-year-old Dennis Bond was seen flailing on his radio log while being pulled to a life buoy without his fins, and struggling to keep his head above water. He was seen by a boat from the Cervantes fishing community, which took him to shore.

The fishing vessel dragged him into the boat and treated his wounds in a shed.

The shark had ripped through the man's pants and caused his skin to peel.

When the boat docked at the Cervantes wharf, Digney drove the injured diver to the hospital and took him to the hospital.

"He was a pretty tough fella," Mr. Digney said.

"There was a lot of blood about, when he was being pulled while he was still in the water."

"He was quite calm about it. He said it was just a bump on the head and he thought it would be OK."

The diver had Mr. Digney for his first shark attack. He had been in the water for about 15 minutes when he was pulled to the boat.

"The shark bit into my leg. The first time it was on my leg and the second time it was on my chest. The shark was quite big. It was about 10 feet long. It was quite calm about it. He said it was just a bump on the head and he thought it would be OK."

Mr. Digney had been sitting on the beach at Cervantes watching the diver when the shark bit.

Little Tyrell the innocent victim of road rage madness — P5

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Shark attacks diver off Australia's west coast

SYDNEY (AP) — A diver was injured Tuesday in a shark attack off a remote section of Australia's southwest coast, officials said. The 55-year-old man was diving for abalone when he was attacked near an area called Poison Creek, near the southwest city of Esperance, Western Australia state police spokesman Sgt. Gerry Cassidy said.

The man was conscious when paramedics were first called, a spokesman for the St. John Ambulance service said. The victim was taken to a hospital in Esperance for treatment. No information was immediately available on his injuries and his name was not released.

Officials from the state Department of Fisheries were heading to the area on Tuesday with equipment to catch and kill the shark. Sharks are common in Australian waters, though the nation has averaged just more than one fatal attack per year over the past 50 years.

SOURCE: Boston.com, October 8, 2013,
<http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/2013/10/08/shark-attacks-diver-off-australia-west->

Diver injured in shark attack

A 55-year-old abalone diver is being rushed to Esperance Hospital after being bitten by a shark about 180km east of the remote town in the south of Western Australia.

The male diver is an employee of Esperance-based Southern Wild Abalone, the state's largest abalone processor, and was collecting the delicacy when he was attacked at about 10.30am (WST) on Tuesday.

Company manager Marcus Tromp said the man, who he did not name, was conscious but in shock. 'There has been some substantial injuries, like any encounter with a shark, but the details are quite sketchy,' Mr Tromp told ABC radio.

He said the crew of another diving vessel, who were close by and witnessed the attack, came to the aid of the diver and his crew. They were towing the man and his boat back to shore, and then back to town, Mr Tromp said.

'The crew on the diver's vessel would have been in shock, and I believe the diver was left on the vessel to keep the injuries stemmed, and the vessel was towed back to meet with the ambulance,' he said. A volunteer ambulance brigade has been called from Condingup, about 68km from Esperance. A St John Ambulance spokesman said a helicopter had been provisionally ordered to bring the diver to Perth, depending on the severity of his injuries.

Mr Tromp said the men had departed from Poison Creek at Cape Arid National Park, a popular fishing spot, where they often camped for a few days at a time while working, rather than drive for two hours each night back to Esperance. Poison Creek is only accessible by four-wheel-drive. A Surf Life Saving spokesman said Esperance's coast was quite dangerous, with big sharks frequently seen in the area and fishermen often swept off rocks.

SOURCE: Sky News, <http://www.skynews.com.au/local/article.aspx?id=913178>

Australian fisherman suffers chest and face wounds after being mauled by shark for second time in under a decade

- ***Greg Pickering diving for abalone near Esperance when he was attacked***
- ***Department of Fisheries believes he was mauled by a great white shark***
- ***Is being treated in hospital and doctors say he is in a stable condition***

An Australian spear fisherman and diver suffered wounds to his chest and face yesterday after being mauled by a shark for the second time in nine years. Bleeding profusely, Greg Pickering, 55, was dragged onto his boat yesterday after being savaged by what is believed to have been a great white shark while he was fishing.

He is being treated in hospital today and is described as being in a stable condition.

Pickering was in the water off the south west coast diving for abalone - an expensive, sought-after delicacy - when the shark attacked, biting into his torso and causing injuries to his face.

Colleagues pulled him onto the dive boat and brought him to shore, 120 miles east of the port of Esperance, Western Australia, where an ambulance with four-wheel-drive capabilities negotiated a rugged track to reach him.

Pickering was in the water off the south west coast diving for abalone - an expensive, sought-after delicacy - when the shark attacked, biting into his torso and causing injuries to his face.

A 'capture or kill' order has been issued by the Department of Fisheries for the shark that attacked Mr Pickering, but it would be a virtually impossible task to identify the culprit as the area is said to be heavily populated with great whites.

It is only when there has been a fatality with human remains being found inside a shark's stomach that the 'suspect' can be identified with any certainty.

The Fisheries department said the shark responsible for the attack on Mr Pickering was 'almost certainly' a great white, but it is not known how big it was.

Fisheries boss Stuart Smith said the 'search and kill' order had been issued because any shark that attacked a human was deemed an 'imminent risk' to public safety.

He said there was likely to be an influx of people in the area, given it was school holidays, and many people would not have access to phone reception during an emergency because of the region's remoteness.

SOURCE: Mailonline, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2449775/Australian-fisherman->

Volunteers who saved shark victim

After jumping on to the top of a tractor for a better signal, off-duty volunteer ambulance officer Conrad Lowe could finally make out his instructions. Being 80km closer to the scene than other officers, the 46-year-old farmer was told to head out ahead of his Condingup-based crew towards Poison Creek to find a man bitten by a shark. He grabbed his first aid kit and jumped into his old Hilux, the adrenaline running through his veins as he contemplated what injuries Greg Pickering had suffered. He was so focused on heading towards the coast, he nearly missed the worn four-wheel-drive towing Mr Pickering as they travelled along the winding gravel track.



*Conrad Lowe, first responder
in the Greg Pickering shark attack.*

Inside that towed boat was a 55-year-old diver clearly in shock, his head and neck wrapped in a towel held tight with duct tape.

The presence of a volunteer ambulance officer brought a wave of relief to Mr Pickering and the crew. After all, in a few short minutes the crew's oxygen supplies would have run out. Luckily, Mr Lowe had brought supplies to last them until further help arrived. "They had done a pretty good job, they had controlled most of the bleeding, the wetsuit was doing a pretty good job, it was tight and applying pressure to the wounds," Mr Lowe said. "They had a bit of duct tape and poked bits of gauze in here and there throughout the wetsuit," he said.

He checked Mr Pickering's vital signs and, despite the obvious lacerations to his face, neck and upper body, he knew his patient would survive this ordeal. "Once I checked his blood pressure, if that was dropping because he had lost too much blood it could have become a real time critical issue because then you go into hypovolemic shock and your body starts to shut down. "But once I maintained that his blood pressure was OK and his oxygen was OK, I had a fairly good idea within a few minutes that this guy was going to be OK, but there was a lot of work that would be needed to be done on him. "He was going to survive and I take my hat off to the guys who did the great first aid without a lot of tools to do it with."

After spending half an hour with Mr Pickering in the boat as they finished the 40km journey along Baring Road, they met senior ambulance officer Mel Lay and Joanne Nankivell.

Unsure whether the ambulance would be able to travel along the unsealed road, the ambulance and its crew organised an escort by a local utility just in case they needed to change vehicles. Mrs Lay, like Mr Lowe, joined their local St John Ambulance sub-centre in 2004 when the original crew's numbers reached a dangerous low

SOURCE: West Australian, <http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/wa/19340096/volunteers-who-saved-shark-victim/>

Australian diver survives his second shark attack in 9 years

SYDNEY – A diver bitten by a shark off Australia's southwest coast was recovering in a hospital on Wednesday after surviving his second shark attack in nine years.

Greg Pickering, 55, was diving for abalone off an area called Poison Creek near the Western Australia city of Esperance on Tuesday when he was attacked by what officials suspect was a great white. He underwent surgery and was in stable condition Wednesday, Royal Perth Hospital spokesman Matt Avery said.

It was the second time Pickering found himself in the jaws of a shark. In 2004, he was bitten on the leg while spearfishing near Cervantes, north of the Western Australia capital, Perth. In an interview from his hospital bed following that attack, the longtime diver told Australia's Ten News that the incident wouldn't stop him from getting back in the water.

"One incident has happened in 34 years," he said at the time. "I'd say that's very small odds."

Pickering suffered injuries to his head and face in Tuesday's attack, Royal Flying Doctor Service spokeswoman Carrie Parsons said. He was flown from a hospital in Esperance to the Perth hospital Tuesday night for surgery.

Officials from the state Department of Fisheries were scouring the waters off Poison Creek on Wednesday trying to catch and kill the shark.

Sharks are common in Australian waters, though the nation has averaged just more than one fatal attack per year over the past 50 years.

SOURCE: Fox News, October 9, 2013, <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/10/09/australian-diver-survives-his-second-shark-attack/>