



Dosdane / NCTPS

**ACTIVITY:** Snorkeling

**CASE:** GSAF 2015.05.09

**DATE:** Saturday May 9, 2015

**LOCATION:** The attack took place in the South Pacific Island off Kouaré island, New Caledonia

**NAME:** Yves Berthelot

**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 50-year-old male, wearing a mask, fins and snorkel. He was associate director and manager for the off-shore call centre OléCall in Noumea.

**SUPPORT BOAT:** The *Gaillac*, an 11.6-metre catamaran from BeMyBoat Charter agency.



## BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** Although it rained a lot on Saturday, according to local expert Philippe Tirard, "the run off from the mainland [Grande Terre] would not have gone over to Kouare as it is quite far from the coast."

**MOON PHASE:** Waning Gibbous, 76% of the Moon was illuminated. Last Quarter, May 11, 2015

**ENVIRONMENT:** Ile Kouare lies approximately about 27 kilometers south of Ile Ouen off the southern tip of Grande Terre. There was no spearfishing activity in the immediate area.

**DISTANCE FROM BOAT:** 15 metres

**DEPTH OF WATER:** "Shallow"

**TIME:**

**NARRATIVE:** Yves Berthelot and his wife, Anne, were with six friends and family on a weekend sailing trip through the southern islands. The boat was anchored off the island of

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Kouaré. Berthelot and two other people were in the water when the shark attacked.

**INJURY:** Fatal He sustained bites to arm, leg and groin. Philippe Tirard examined Berthelot's injuries and concluded the attack seemed to be random and did not appear to be a territorial response by the shark. "He was just in the wrong place at the wrong time." Berthelot is the 11th person killed by a shark attack in New Caledonian waters since 1958

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** He was pulled out of the water by people on the boat several of whom were health workers. A helicopter was sent to the area but the man died 45 minutes after he was bitten, before paramedics could reach him. The helicopter later airlifted the victim and his wife..... "Most people on board were health workers. First aid was significant but the injuries were such that unfortunately there was not much that could be done."

**SPECIES:** Bull shark, approximately 3.5 metres in length.

**SOURCES:** Les Nouvelles Caledoniennes, May 11, 2015  
<http://www.lnc.nc/article/pays/morsures-fatales-a-kouare>  
Vanuatu Daily Post, May 13, 2015  
[http://dailypost.vu/news/fatal-shark-attack-in-new-caledonia-s-southern-lagoon/article\\_df250a4f-ff49-53c9-8c6c-09bf812ef6c1.html](http://dailypost.vu/news/fatal-shark-attack-in-new-caledonia-s-southern-lagoon/article_df250a4f-ff49-53c9-8c6c-09bf812ef6c1.html)

**REPORTED BY:** Bob Myatt

