



ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: [GSAF 1991.01.19](#)

DATE: Saturday January 19, 1991

LOCATION: Lake Wonderland, Mermaid Waters, Queensland, Australia

NAME: Michael Sproule

DESCRIPTION: A 35-year-old male, a triathlete who competes in marathons, swimming and running events

BACKGROUND

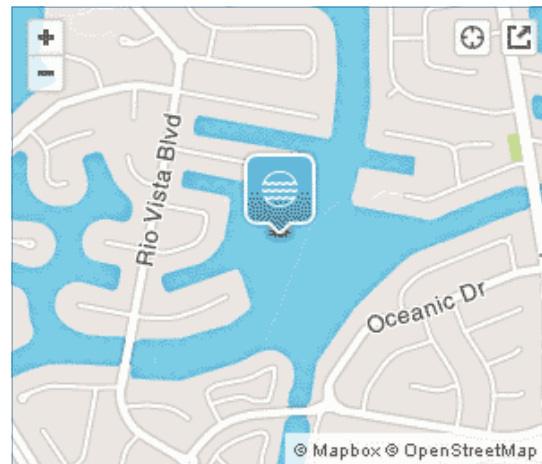
MOON PHASE: New Moon, January 16, 1991

ENVIRONMENT: Mermaid Waters is a suburb on Queensland's Gold Coast. Many of the homes are on its lakes and canals. Lake Wonderland is a wide expanse of water where three canals converge.

TIME: 08h10

NARRATIVE: Michael Sproule was halfway through his daily swim from Sailfish Point Resort, Mermaid Waters, when he was bitten by the shark. The shark repeatedly bit his leg and thigh. As he hit the shark with his fist his hand was also bitten. He reached shore unaided.

INJURY: Multiple lacerations to hands, legs and buttocks



FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Sproule's cries for help were heard by Noel and Lila Brown who found him standing on a small beach area, bleeding profusely, at the bottom of their garden. The couple brought him in to stop the flow of blood with some linen. Then He was rushed to the Gold Coast hospital for surgery to repair his injuries.

SPECIES: Bull shark

SOURCE: Sunday Mail, January 20, 1991, page 1, *et al*

Man bitten by shark

BRISBANE: A Gold Coast man was recovering in hospital last night after being bitten by a shark in a canal near his home — the third attack in the past four months.

The attack on Michael Sproule follows two similar attacks on male swimmers in November and October and an attack on a young boy in late 1989.

