

CASE: [GSAF 1995.12.09.b](#)

DATE: Wednesday December 9, 1994

LOCATION: Hinchinbrook Channel, Queensland, Australia.

NAME: Peter Saibura

DESCRIPTION: He was a 44-year-old male, a murder victim.

ENVIRONMENT: Hinchinbrook Channel separates the mainland from Hinchinbrook Island. It is a vast system of creeks and channels.



NARRATIVE: Saibura was murdered on December 4, 1994, and his body dumped in Hinchinbrook Channel.

On December 9, 1995, Saibura's body was seen by Fisheries patrol officer Bruce Kingdom who attempted to retrieve it. On March 29, 1995, Kingdom testified in Cairns Magistrates Court that he and his companion battled a large shark attacking the floating body parts. "It (the shark) made an attacking run under our boat . . . It ate the entire arm and a bit of the shoulder."

SPECIES: The incident involved a 4.5-metre shark.

SOURCE: Courier Mail, Thursday March 30, 1995, page 3

SHARK ATE ARM: WITNESS

in Cairns A fisheries patrol officer watched a 4.5m shark devour a murder victim's arm, Cairns Magistrates Court was told yesterday.

The information was given in evidence during a committal hearing for Innisfail pensioner Kenneth Austin Scotton, 52, who has been charged with the murder of Gold Coast man John Peter Saibura, 44, on December 4, 1994.

A Queensland Boating and Fisheries patrol officer and state police officers gave evidence in the morning session of the hearing held under tight security before Magistrate Trevor Pollock.

Fisheries patrol officer Bruce Kingdom told the court how he found bits of a body floating in Hinchinbrook Channel during a routine patrol on December 9. "As we drove closer I thought it was a piece of a dugong that had been dismembered but when we came alongside the pieces there were two larger pieces _ it was obviously a human arm attached to half of an upper torso," he said.

"There was a small section with another arm . . . there was a human head . . . they were in a state of decomposition, each body part had wounds to it. There were some incision-like wounds around the base of the head."

Mr Kingdom said he and his companion battled a large shark attacking the floating body parts. "It (the shark) made an attacking run under our boat and ate that body section. It ate the entire arm and a bit of the shoulder."

During Mr Kingdom's evidence, Scotton's wife left the court sobbing. Police officers told the court of retrieving the body parts from the water.

The victim was identified by a fingerprint expert. Police also told of Scotton speaking about his son's death after he had come into the police station to give a statement. Innisfail Detective Sergeant Jeffrey Kelly said that during a conversation, Scotton had told him that his son Brett was a marijuana crop sitter on a crop belonging to Albert Rhodes. "And that Rhodes had contacted Ken (Scotton) and informed him that Brett had committed suicide," Kelly said. "He (Scotton) stated that he had made arrangements for Rhodes to leave Brett's body where police would find it."

The body of Brett Scotton was found lying beside the Bruce Highway north of Giru in far North Queensland on June 7. He had suffered a gunshot wound to the mouth and was found lying on top of a .357 calibre pistol.

Mr Scotton declined to question any of the witnesses during the morning session. He asked to be allowed to return to the cells. "I'm on trial for what? Because a drug addict was responsible for my boy's death.

"I'm being kept in a cage like a caged animal. I'm not being given a chance outside that door." Magistrate Pollock replied: ""You're being given one (chance) here. "This (the hearing) has been proceeding since December last year. You have had adequate time to prepare yourself.

"On Tuesday, the court was told testimony from Saibura's wife Deborah Patricia Saibura, Scotton's daughter Natalie, 19, and a former marijuana crop worker, Christopher James Honner. Honner told the court Scotton had told him he had shot Saibura.

Honner said he had helped Scotton dump the body in the Hinchinbrook Channel in early December.

The hearing will continue today.

SOURCE: R. Callinan, Courier Mail, Thursday March 30, 1995, page 3