

**ACTIVITY:** Collecting sea cucumbers (beche de mer)

**CASE:** GSAF 2002.06.13.R2

**DATE:** Reported Tuesday May 21, 2002

**LOCATION:** The attack took place at Brooker Island, Calavados Chain, Louisiade Archipelago.

**NAME:** Unknown

**DESCRIPTION:** Male

**BACKGROUND**

**ENVIRONMENT:** The Louisiade Archipelago is a string of ten volcanic islands and coral reefs located southeast of Papua New Guinea, between the Solomon Sea to the north and the Coral Sea to the south.

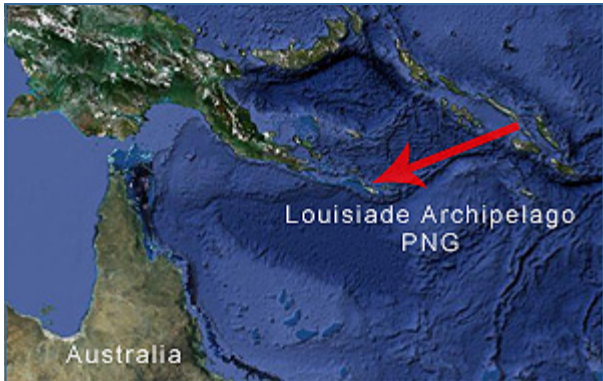
**NARRATIVE:** No details

**INJURY:** Dr. John Lee of the Misima General Hospital station confirmed the man sustained severe lacerations to his arm.

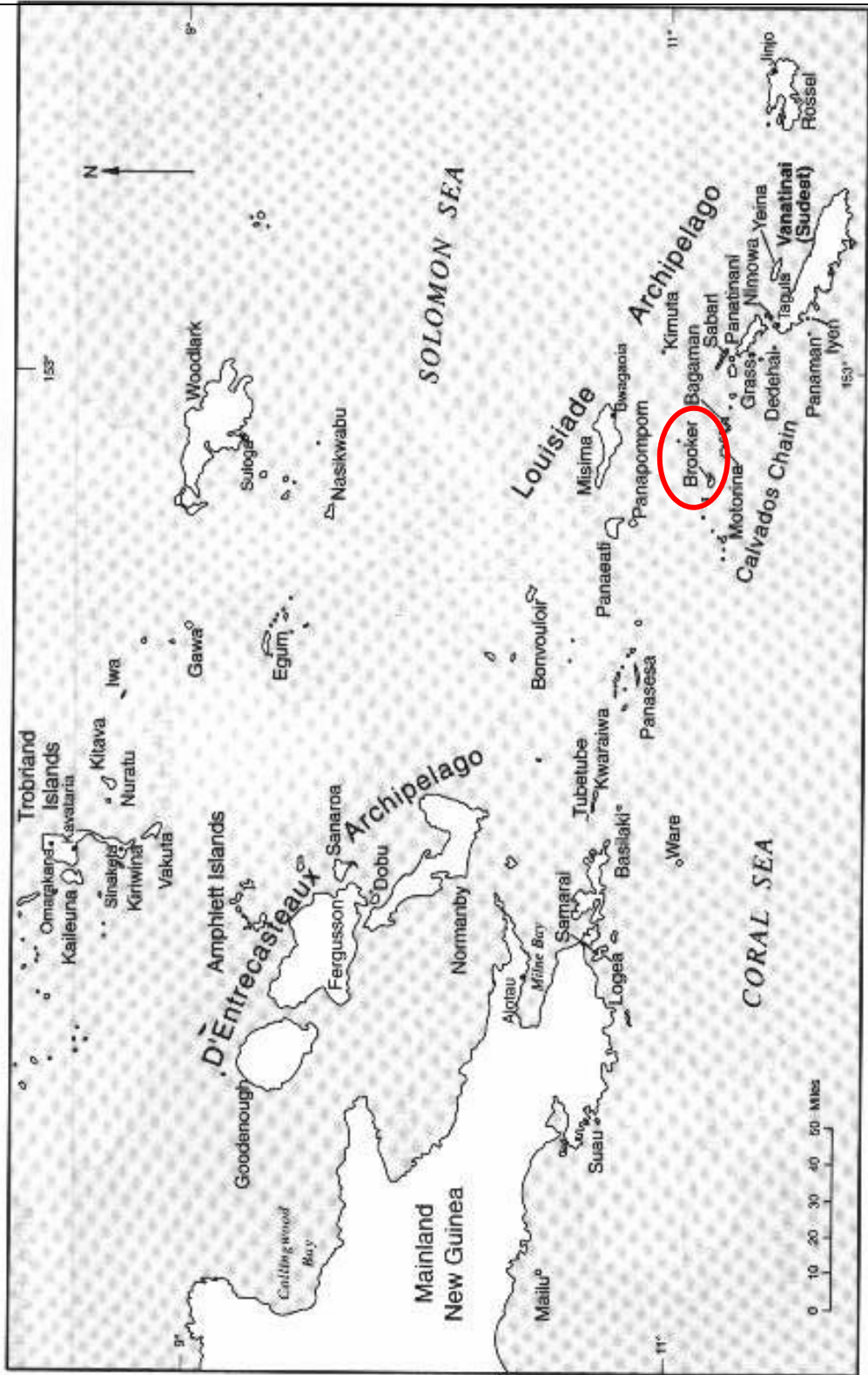
**TREATMENT:** The injuries required surgical amputation of the man's arm.

**SPECIES:** Not identified

**SOURCE:** Frank Asaeli, PNG Post-Courier, Thursday June 13, 2002, page 5



*Animal effigy clan totem (gi lopala) representing a fish devouring a clan father. These were used during initiation ceremonies at Gogodala, Aramia River, Western Province, PNG*



Islands of Southeastern New Guinea — The Massim

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Sea slug hunters mauled by sharks  
By Frank Asaeli

Beche-de-mer fishermen in the Milne Bay Province have been advised to stop collecting the sea slugs by tomorrow.

Reports from around the province are start a number of fishermen have been attacked by sharks while collecting the slugs.

The National Fisheries Authority (NFA), through Milne Bay Fisheries adviser Onsa Kelokelo, has exempted exporting companies Kiwali exports, Asiapac and RFI enterprises, who are to close on June 21.

Sources around Milne Bay islands reported that some people had become shark attack victims during the beche-de-mer harvesting period after NFA lifted a moratorium on sea slugs harvesting this year.

Dr John Lee from the Misima General Hospital at Bwagaoia station confirmed receiving a shark attack victim from Brooker island whose arm was amputated because of the severity of the attack.

He also confirmed that an elementary teacher on Sudest island died after being bitten by a shark at Gawa reefs while trying to retrieve a dinghy.

Two other divers were treated at the rural health centres on islands in the Lousiade and Calvados chain.

The latest victim, 14-year-old Billy Leonard, was attacked near Hummock (Tewatewa) island on May 21, leaving him with deep multiple wounds on his wrist.

Leonard surfaced with a "white teeth" (beche-de-mer) in his hand and a shark attacked him. It snatched the slug together with the victim's right wrist.

The sea slug's white abdomen had attracted the shark.