

**ACTIVITY:** Snorkeling

**CASE:** GSAF 2002.12.29

**DATE:** Sunday December 29, 2002

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Coral Sea at Apollo Reef near Upolu Cay some 25 miles (40 kilometres), off Cairns on the far north-Queensland coast, Australia.

**NAME:** Lienne Schellekens

**DESCRIPTION:** She is an 18-year-old Dutch tourist. She was traveling alone.

**SUPPORT BOAT:** She was a passenger on board a day-boat.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** New Moon, January 3, 2003

**ENVIRONMENT:** She was near a reef.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 40 kilometers (25 miles)

**TIME:** Between 14h30 and 15h00

**NARRATIVE:** Lienne Schellekens was snorkeling near three other people when she saw the shark. Moments later it latched onto her left arm, biting her once and then swimming away. Boat skipper Chris Adams said she suddenly started screaming. "I wasn't quite sure what was causing the problem," he said, "but we raced to her in a dinghy. When I got to her there was a lot of blood in the water," he said. "We got her in the dinghy and took her back to the boat."

**INJURY:** Her left arm was severely lacerated.

**FIRST AID:** Adams said the crew bandaged her up as well as they could. Another tour operator took her to Upolu Cay and continued rendering first-aid until a Queensland Rescue helicopter arrived with Paramedic Chris Beadnell onboard. Then Schellekens was airlifted to the mainland where she was admitted to Cairns Base Hospital.

**TREATMENT:** When Schellekens arrived at the hospital she was conscious and reported to be in stable condition. She subsequently had surgery to repair the injury to her arm.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Schellekens, the only person to see the shark, identified it as a hammerhead shark.

**SOURCES:** Northern Territory News, December 30, 2002, page 9; Mercury (Hobart), December 30, 2002, page 10

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Terry Peake, Australasian Shark Attack File

