

ACTIVITY: Surf skiing

CASE: **GSFAF 2003.07.26 R**

DATE: Reported 26 July 2003

LOCATION: The incident took place off the coast of Nhulunbuy, Gove Peninsula, Northern Territory, Australia.

12°11'S, 136°46'E

NAME: Martin Gunda

DESCRIPTION: He is a 37-year-old male employed by the Alcan mining company at Nhulunbuy. He trains five times a week and is part of an eight-strong paddling team, which will complete the 850km water leg from Gove to Darwin of a mega triathlon. The triathlon, which starts on August 13, aims to raise money for helicopter rescue equipment



BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Last Quarter, July 21, 2003

ENVIRONMENT: A bauxite mine and a deep water port were established near Nhulunbuy in the late 1960s. Nhulunbuy was established to house the workers and their families who were employed by the Swiss Aluminum company. The mine is now owned by Alcan.

"We occasionally see crocs and other nasties in the water," Mr Gunda said.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 1.5 kilometres

NARRATIVE: Martin Gunda was training for a charity event. He was paddling in front of friend Doug Grommon when the shark struck with an "almighty bang" and Gunda was flung into the water. "As soon as I realised it wasn't [Doug] I knew exactly what it was," he said. "I got in the surf ski quickly and paddled like hell back to (the) surf club." By the time Gunda reached the beach the ski was taking on water.

INJURY: No injury

DAMAGE TO SURF SKI: The shark bit the ski's rudder. There were teeth marks behind the rudder, some of which punctured the fibreglass.

SPECIES: Not identified. The pair saw a light-coloured shadowy shark shape in the water underneath them, which they estimated to be have a girth of approximately 75cm.

SOURCE: Edith Bevin, Northern Territory News, Saturday 26 July 2003, page 1