

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: GSAF 2003.11.12

DATE: November 12, 2003

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Bay of Bengal at Mahabalipuram, about 50 kilometres from Chennai in Tamil Nadu, India.



NAME: Mark Moquin

DESCRIPTION: He is a 35-year-old professional surfer from Hawaii. This is his third visit to India, and he is here on a honeymoon trip with his wife.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 91% of the Moon was illuminated. Full Moon, November 9, 2003. Last Quarter, November 17, 2003.

ENVIRONMENT: The tiny seaside village of Mahabalipuram was once the second capital of the Pallava kings of Kanchipuram and is famous for its shore temples, miles of upspoiled boulder-stewn beaches and rock-cut art.

NARRATIVE: No details. It was believed the swimmer accidentally put his hand into the shark's mouth.

INJURY: Dr Nandakumar Sundaram, an orthopedic surgeon and one of the pioneers in joint replacement and arthroscopic surgeries in India, described the injury as severe and deep; it consisted of a laceration extending from the palm to the dorsal surface of the hand. There were multiple lacerated wounds of the tendons of the left index finger.

TREATMENT: The patient's injury was repaired in Chennai by Dr. Sundaram at Malar Hospital, an outstanding center for trauma care. The injury required 40 sutures to repair.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified. The press speculated that the incident may have involved a tiger shark, *Galeocerdo cuvier*.

REPORTED BY: P. C. Vinoj Kumar

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Commander Arun Patil, Shark Research Institute.