

ACTIVITY: Snorkeling

CASE: [GSAF 2005.12.11](#)

DATE: Sunday December 11, 2005

LOCATION: The incident took place on the Great Barrier Reef off St. Crispin Reef, 20 nautical miles off Port Douglas in far north Queensland, Australia.

16°05.07'S, 145°50.46'E

NAME: Glenn Simpson

DESCRIPTION: He is a 44-year-old male, a builder from Melbourne, and a charter boat operator.

SUPPORT BOAT: 14 metre game boat, *The Allure*.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waxing Gibbous, 78% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated. Full Moon, December 16, 2005

DISTANCE FROM BOAT: 60 metres

TIME: 11h00

NARRATIVE: Glenn Simpson was snorkeling while his two teenage sons (15-year-old Luke, and 13-year-old Dylan) were spearfishing nearby. Simpson noticed shark activity in the water but was not overly concerned because they were only white-tipped reef sharks, with the biggest less than 1.5 metres in length. However, when his son Luke speared a coral trout five sharks appeared and ripped the fish apart. Then the shark pack turned on Mr. Simpson and Luke. "Within seconds, it was on. They just came from nowhere," Mr Simpson said. "One came toward my face and I was able to push that away with my forearm, but within a second, another had come from behind and grabbed my right arm," he said. "It held on and pulled me underwater. It was shaking its head around on my arm but then, for whatever reason, it just let go." Bleeding heavily, Mr Simpson was helped back to his boat by Luke, and the air ambulance was called.

Simpson said his main concern was for the safety of his sons. Dylan was about 100m away fishing on another reef when the incident took place. Both boys escaped injury. He also said he did not support calls for massive shark culls. "We did nothing different to what we have done dozens and dozens and dozens of time before," he said. But he added that he would probably not go back spearfishing for at least this week.

INJURY: Simpson sustained 30 puncture wounds to his right arm and tissue was removed



Glenn Simpson

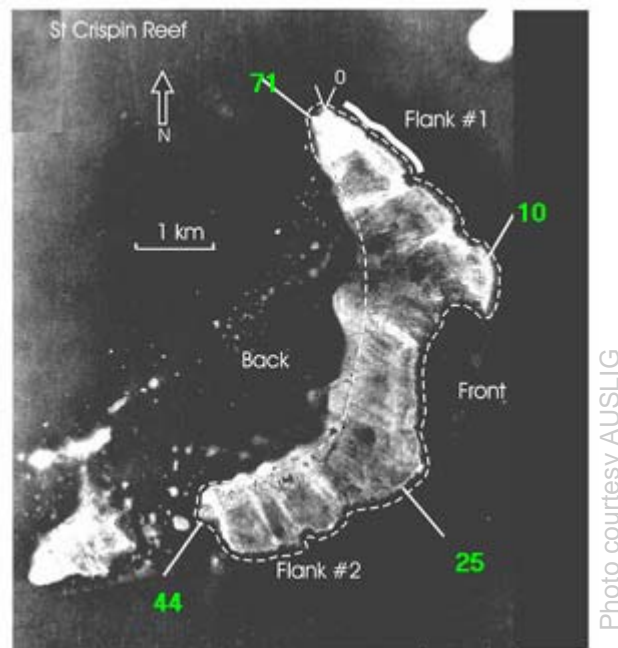
from his right elbow.

TREATMENT: The diver was admitted to Cairns Base Hospital where he is listed in satisfactory condition.

SPECIES: Whitetip reef shark.

NOTE: It was at St. Crispin's Reef that American scuba divers Thomas and Eileen Lonergan were inadvertently left behind by the dive boat *Outer Edge* on Sunday January 25, 1998. Their bodies were never found, but a portion of Eileen Lonergan's shark-bitten wetsuit was later recovered. On Friday October 10, 1998, the Coroner Mr Nunan, SM, found that Thomas and Eileen Lonergan died at sea from either drowning, exposure or shark attack some time between 8 am on January 26, 1998 and February 2, 1998. He committed Geoffrey Ian "Jack" Nairn, owner of the *Outer Edge*, to stand trial for manslaughter over the deaths of Thomas and Eileen Lonergan.

SOURCES: ABC News online, Monday December 12, 2005, Courier-Mail, December 12, 2005, Herald Sun (Melbourne), December 13, 2005



St. Crispin (No. 16-019) is an outer shelf crescentic reef with an area of 38.19 sq.km