

ACTIVITY: Spearfishing

CASE: GSAF 2006.06.24

DATE: Saturday June 24, 2006

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean off Mangrove Cay, Andros Island, Bahamas.

NAME: Whitefield Rolle

DESCRIPTION: He is a 25-year-old male from Mangrove Cay. He was said to be an experienced spearfisherman.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon on June 25, 2006

SEA CONDITIONS: Spring tides

ENVIRONMENT: Sergeant David Thompson of the Police stated that the attack on Saturday was the first of its kind to occur in the Mangrove Cay community to his knowledge. However, he added that the occurrence is not an unusual one as sharks usually are "cooting" or mating this time of year. "From talking to fisherman this is the time of year that sharks are cooting, and during high tides you would find them coming in and going in a lot." He said the Mangrove Cay area in Andros is like a fishing village with many of the young men getting their feet wet in the industry from the age of 12. However, he did indicate that authorities on the island have cautioned fishermen and residents who fish and swim in the waters off the island.

TIME: 13h00

NARRATIVE: "He had speared a snapper and went to retrieve it. He was interested only in getting his catch out of the water, and while doing that a shark passed at the same time and caught him in the right arm," said Sergeant David Thompson of the Police Station. "His only interest was to retrieve that fish. And because of the blood from the fish, the shark attacked," said Sergeant Thompson, adding that there was nothing the young man could have done to prevent the occurrence.

INJURY: The spearfisherman's right arm was injured. According to press reports he lost his right arm but it is not known if it was severed by the shark or so severely injured that surgical repair was not possible.

TREATMENT: He was reportedly airlifted into New Providence around 16h00 the same afternoon.

SPECIES: Unknown. The spearfisherman did not see the shark.

SOURCES: Viraj Perpall, viraj@nasguard.com, Nassau Guardian, http://www.thenassauguardian.net/national_local/296946922980301.php;
<http://www.news.bahamianyellowpages.com/2006/06/30/man-loses-arm-to-shark/>

REPORTED BY: Al Brenneka





Man loses arm to shark

A shark attack over the weekend has left a Mangrove Cay young man without an arm, according to officials.

It is reported that around 1 p.m. last Saturday a shark attacked Whitefield Rolle, 25, while he was spear fishing.

"He had speared a snapper and went to retrieve it. And while doing that a shark passed at the same time and caught him in the right arm," said Sergeant David Thompson of the Police Station. The young man was reportedly airlifted into New Providence around 4 p.m. that afternoon. Sergeant Thompson stated that the attack on Saturday was the first of its kind to occur in the Mangrove Cay community to his knowledge.

However, he added that the occurrence is not an unusual one as sharks usually are "cooting" or mating this time of year.

"From talking to fisherman this is the time of year that sharks are cooting, and during high tides you would find them coming in and going in a lot."

Rolle, who was said to have been a fisherman from a very young age, did not see the shark and was interested only in getting his catch out of the water when he was viciously attacked.

"His only interest was to retrieve that fish. And because of the blood from the fish, the shark attacked," said Sergeant Thompson, adding that there was nothing the young man could have done to prevent the occurrence.

He went on to say that the Mangrove Cay area in Andros is like a fishing village with many of the young men getting their feet wet in the industry from the age of 12.

However, he did indicate that authorities on the island have cautioned fishermen and residents who fish and swim in the waters off the island.

SOURCE: Viraj Perpall (viraj@nasguard.com), Nassau Guardian, June 30, 2006

Sea workers asked to beware of sharks in wake of attack

By LASHONNE OUTTEN
Guardian Staff Reporter

Spear fishermen are being warned to be on their guard after a vicious shark attack on Andros left a Mangrove Cay man without an arm.

The Director of the Department of Marine Resources, Michael Braynen said yesterday that it is not unusual for sharks to show up near to where people are fishing and spear fishermen are at even greater risk.

"With respect to spear fish-

ing I can only advise persons to be extra careful. If they observe any sharks in the area, I would advise them to leave that area."

The shark attack that left out an arm, happened as he was spear fishing in Mangrove Cay.

"He had speared a snapper and went to retrieve it. And while doing that a shark passed at the same time and caught him in the right arm," said Sergeant David Thompson of the Mangrove

man this is the time of year



■ **Jaws:** Fishermen are being warned to be on the lookout for deadly sharks

waters off the island. According to Mr Braynen, it is not uncommon for sharks to frequent areas where someone is spear fishing. He emphasised that sharks are attracted to those areas for two significant reasons.

"The police officer in Mangrove Cay made reference to the fact that the victim in the attack was spear fishing, and it's not uncommon for sharks to be attracted to this kind of situation," said Mr Braynen.

Thompson explained that the Mangrove Cay area is like a fishing village and many of the young men get their feet wet in the industry from the age of 12.

However, he did indicate that authorities on the island have cautioned fishermen and residents who fish and swim in the

that sharks are cooting, and during high tides you would find them coming in and going in a lot."

Rolle, who was said to have been a fisherman from a very young age, did not see the shark and was interested only in getting his catch out of the water when he was attacked.

Photo:
DONALD KNOWLES

"There are two things that could cause a shark to be attracted to a speared fish. First of all there is the presence of blood and secondly, there are some vibrations caused by a fish struggling on a spear. These are cues that sharks will respond to."