

ACTIVITY: Canoeing

CASE: GSAF 2006.11.09

DATE: Thursday November 9, 2006

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Indian Ocean near the mouth of the Nahoon River, East London, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.

NAME: Richard Tebutt

DESCRIPTION: He is a male from East London.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sky was overcast and visibility was 6.2 miles [10 km], air temperature ranged from 68° to 69°F [20° to 21°C], and wind direction was South at 4.6 to 9.2 mph [7.4 to 15.8 km/h].

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 81% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated. Last Quarter, November 12, 2006.

TIME: Afternoon



NARRATIVE: Richard Tebutt was paddling on the river when he saw a young fisherman on the bank battling to pull in what seemed to be a “very big fish”. Tebutt rowed closer and offered to help. “The boy did not have a gaff to hook his catch and I decided to jump into the water. I saw the tail and thought it might be a ragged-tooth shark,” he explained. Tebutt’s son was rowing behind him on a two-seater surfski and warned his father when the angler’s line broke. Tebutt dived down and grabbed the shark’s tail. “I got a shock of my life when I saw a big Zambezi shark, charging towards me,” said Tebutt. “[The shark] bore down on me with his jaws wide open, and I lifted my left forearm to protect myself. The shark grabbed my left arm and lacerated it. Within a split second, I saw my blood in the river. I just smacked the shark as hard as I could with my right arm to get it to let go of me,” he said. Tebutt succeeded in getting the roughly 1,5-metre predator to back off, but only for a few moments. “I was in the water holding my arm which was bleeding profusely, and the shark started coming towards me very fast. I immediately jumped out of the water onto the riverbank and the shark missed me.” he said.

INJURY: Tebutt’s left arm was bitten by the shark.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Once on shore Tebutt realized he was losing blood. His son and a family friend, Andrew Carter [GSAF 1994.07.09.a] rushed Tebutt to St Dominics Hospital [45 St Marks Road, Southernwood] where he received 50 stitches to his left arm.

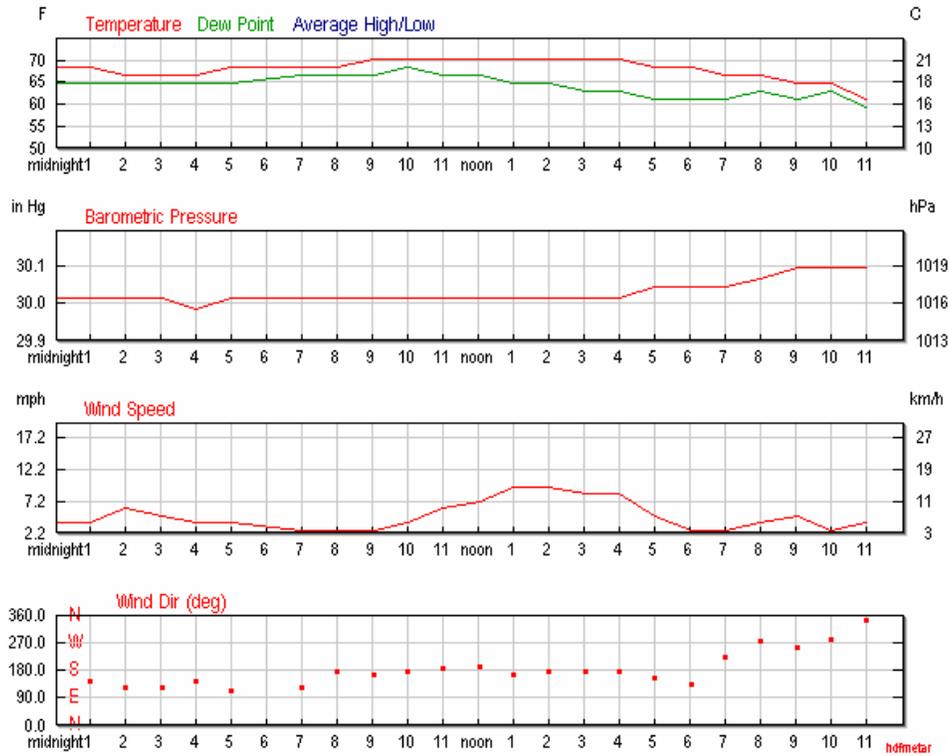
SPECIES: The incident involved a Zambesi shark, 1.5 metres in length.

NOTE: This is a Provoked Incident; the shark bit Tebutt *after* he grabbed it by the tail.

SOURCES: Luyanda Makapela, East London Dispatch, November 11, 2006, <http://www.dispatch.co.za/2006/11/11/Easterncape/ashark.html>

News24.com, November 17, 2006,
http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/News/0,9294,2-7-1442_2031768,00.html

REPORTED BY: Peter Immerz, SharkProject.com



Weather at East London on 9 November 2006