

ACTIVITY: Surfing
CASE: GSAF 2007.04.09

DATE: April 9, 2007

LOCATION: The incident took place in the South Pacific Ocean at Dumbéa, New Caledonia.

NAME: Olivier Bertholom

DESCRIPTION: He is a 26-year-old male.

BACKGROUND

SEA CONDITIONS: The waves were good according to the surfer.

DISTANCE FROM BOAT: 200 metres

TIME: 16h30

NARRATIVE: Olivier Bertholom was sitting on his board with his legs dangling in the water. He was with a friend Nico. They saw two dolphins pass close by. "I thought it was strange, but did not worry," said Bertholom. Moments later his left foot was bitten by a shark.

INJURY: His tibial artery, four tendons and a nerve were severed.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: The people on the boat heard the surfer scream and rendered first aid. Direct compression was used to control blood loss. Twenty minutes after the surfer was bitten he was onboard a helicopter and was transported to a hospital.

SPECIES: Not identified.

SOURCE: Les Nouvelles Calédoniennes, April 11, 2007 & October 3, 2007

