

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2007.12.21

DATE: Friday December 21, 2007

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean at San Cristobal Island, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador.

NAME: Sam Judd

DESCRIPTION: He is a 24-year-old male from Wellington, New Zealand, the son of former Act Party president Catherine Judd.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, December 23, 2007

NARRATIVE: Sam Judd was surfing when a shark bit his thigh. He punched the shark and it swam away. "I knew I was bleeding and I thought 'if that has another go, it's not going to be good, so I just want to get out'," he said. Two friends pulled him to shore and he clambered 400m along the rocks, bleeding from the bite marks on both thighs.

INJURY: The surfer's left thigh was bitten. "It's massive bite marks on either side of his thigh," Catherine Judd told Radio New Zealand.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: His two mates got him to hospital. "I'm pretty glad it wasn't an overly serious injury because the hospital was pretty terrible," said Judd who arrived at he hospital badly injured and in shock. "I'm like lying there with a gaping wound in my leg." said Mr Judd, who added if it was not for his small first aid kit along with his two mates, the situation could have been much worse. One of his mates had to run two kilometres to get money for medical supplies before the hospital would start treating him. "They didn't have the supplies there in the hospital," said Mr. Judd. "I said 'I've got travel insurance, this is all going to be paid off, just pull the stuff out and stitch me up'". Some 23 stitches were needed to repair the wound, and he was placed on strong antibiotics to prevent infection. He is recovering at his rented cottage with his friends and plans to stay on in the area.

SPECIES: According to the surfer, the shark was about eight feet in length. Later reports



incorrectly attribute the incident to a tiger shark. A tiger shark has serrated teeth in both upper and lower jaws, while Judd's wounds indicate the shark that bit him had serrated teeth in its upper jaw and smooth-edged grasping teeth in its lower jaw.

SOURCES: Radio New Zealand; youtube — First ever recorded shark attack in the Galapagos

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Richard D. Weeks, Global Shark Accident File

