

ACTIVITY: Sea disaster

CASE: [GSAF 2008.05.24.b](#)

DATE: Saturday May 24, 2008

LOCATION: The incident took place near Memory Rock, north of West End, Grand Bahama Island, Bahamas.
26.7°N, 79.0°W

NAME: Unknown

DESCRIPTION: male

BOAT: A 27-foot Bahamian-registered fishing boat carrying four extra containers of fuel, indicating it was prepared to make long runs, and leading to speculation that those on board were illegal immigrants.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 19h00, West End recorded thunderstorms, rain and heavy squalls. The air temperature was 71.6°F [22°C], dew point 69.8°F [21°C], humidity 94%, wind direction NNW at 23 mph with gusts to 49 mph [79.6 km/h].

MOON PHASE: Last Quarter, May 28, 2008

SEA CONDITIONS: 12-foot seas.

DEPTH OF WATER: Eight to 22 feet

TIME: Night



Photo/Bahamas Air Sea Rescue Association

This is the capsized fishing boat rescuers found Sunday May 24, 2008 near the Bahamas. Authorities and a dive boat crew from Riviera Beach pulled out the bodies of two men and one woman who appeared to have drowned. Another body looked as though it had been ravaged by a shark and could not be recovered.

NARRATIVE: The Coast Guard was searching for Danish yachtman Peer Steenburg who fell overboard from the 36-foot *Holo Ki Ki* when it spotted the capsized fishing boat. The bodies of three people were recovered: a Jamaican man and a man and woman from Haiti. One of the bodies had been bitten by a shark. A fourth body was seen but it was taken by a shark before it could be recovered. It is likely that the victims drowned.

SPECIES: Two 12-foot tiger sharks were circling the wreckage when the Coast Guard came on the scene.

SOURCES: Sun-Sentinel, May 28, 2008; Associated Press, May 28, 2008; Fox News, <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,358902,00.html>

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