

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2009.03.06

DATE: Friday March 6, 2009

LOCATION: The attack took place off Bourail on the west coast of New Caledonia.

21°34'0"S, 165°28'60"E

NAME: Kevin Hannecart

DESCRIPTION: He was a 19-year-old male, a student from Cherbourg, France, who was studying in Noumea, the capital of New Caledonia.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 11h30, Noumea recorded cloudy skies and visibility of 6.2 miles. The air temperature was 87.8°F, dew point 75.2°F, humidity 66%, sea level pressure 29.83 inches, and wind direction was SW at 6.9mph.

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, March 11, 2009.

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was turbid due to recent rains.

TIME: 11h30

NARRATIVE: He was surfing with a friend, and paddling to catch a wave when a shark grabbed his right arm. His friend immediately came to the rescue but the shark bit the teen two or three times before he was taken into a boat.

INJURY: Fatal. The teen's right arm was severed, all tissue was removed from his right thigh, and tissue was removed from his right calf. His friend managed to get him to shore, but he was dead by the time emergency workers reached him.

SPECIES: According to a paper by Eric Clua and Dennis Reid that appeared in the Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine, the incident involved a white shark, approximately 2.7 metres total length.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES: March 6, 2009, International Herald Tribune; The Australian, March 6, 2009; Les Nouvelles Caledoniennes, March 9, 2009.

