

ACTIVITY: Scuba diving
CASE: [GSAF 2009.06.02.b](#)
DATE: Tuesday June 2, 2009
LOCATION: The accident took place in the southern Red Sea at Abili Gafar on St John's Reef, Egypt.



The Beau Rivage

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, June 7, 2009

ENVIRONMENT: Abili Gafar (a.k.a. Habili Gafar) is a small domed pinnacle, with a ledge running around it at 20-35m deep before the reef plunges in to the depths of the Red Sea. Strong currents on the northern side attract pelagic species such as oceanic whitetip sharks.



Nil

NARRATIVE: The day after the fatal attack on Katrina Tipio (GSAF 2009.06.01) and at the same location, divers from the were finishing a dive, when a large oceanic whitetip shark was

seen under the boat and made a few passes at the divers. Moments later the shark came to the surface and began harassing the divers. While the ship's crew were attempting to scare the shark away from the boarding ladder with broomsticks, the shark snapped at Luc, one of the divers on the ladder who sustained a 3 cm laceration to his shoulder and a cut to the wetsuit.

All the divers had gained the safety of the boat, except Nil. Wwhen the shark went for him, Nil bent his knees and struck the shark in its face with his heels. Nil says that while he was being lifted up the RIB with tank and all, he felt something strange in his hand and withdrew it rapidly.

INJURY: He sustained a 7cm laceration to the fourth finger and back of his left hand, and a cut in the back of his third finger. No tendons were damaged.

FIRST AID: A doctor on board applied steri-strips and a compression dressing. Nil also was given an antibiotic and anti-inflammatory.

SPECIES: The incident involved an oceanic whitetip shark.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Dr. Erich Ritter