



ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: [GSAF 2010.02.19](#)

DATE: Friday February 19, 2010

LOCATION: The incident took place in Tasman Bay at Tahunanui Beach, Nelson, at the north end of South Island, New Zealand.

NAME: Paul Baird

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 19h00, Nelson recorded visibility of 12 miles. The air temperature was 64°F, dew point 56°F, humidity 70%, sea level pressure 29.90 inches and wind direction was NNE at 12.7 mph.

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, February 22, 2010

ENVIRONMENT: A 2.5 metre blue shark was photographed on Tuesday night (February 16, 2010) by Geraldine Meade just off the beach in the Blind Channel. Clinton Duffy of the Aquatic and Threats Unit of DOC in Auckland said blue sharks were in outer Tasman Bay all the time and had been seen lately in larger numbers circling the carcasses of pilot whales stranded off Farewell Spit.

DEPTH OF WATER: Chest-deep

TIME: Late night



A blue shark photographed by Geraldine Meade at Tahunanui.

NARRATIVE: Baird was swimming when something "very large" smacked into his side. He

was suddenly hit and "pushed around like a toy". "It really felt like I'd been hit by a small car," he said.

INJURY: No injury. Baird was bruised and rattled but otherwise unhurt."

SPECIES: Duffy thought it was possible the incident involved a blue shark. He said it was "very typical" for blue sharks to investigate potential prey before they attacked. "It's not going to linger," said Duffy. "They're highly migratory animals which tend to move inshore at night and then head out again during the day." He also said it was likely the shark had already left the area, but people fishing in the channel should not throw fish remains into the sea, which was probably what attracted it.

SOURCE: The Nelson Mail, February 23, 2010.

