

ACTIVITY: Scuba diving

CASE: [GSAF 2010.05.03](#)

DATE: Monday May 3, 2010

LOCATION: The accident took place in the Indian Ocean near Nosy Be island, which is located off the northwest coast of Madagascar.

13°23'0"S, 48°12'0"E

NAME: Michel Touzet

DESCRIPTION: He is a 59-year-old male from Reunion Island, a physician and an experienced diver (Grade 3 CMAS)

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 09h00, Nosy Be recorded scattered clouds and visibility of 6.2 miles. The air temperature was 87.8°F, dew point 71.6°F, humidity 58%, sea level pressure 29.95 inches, and wind direction was SE at 4.6 mph.

MOON PHASE: Last Quarter, May 6, 2010

SEA CONDITIONS: The water temperature was 29C, rather good visibility, and no current.

ENVIRONMENT: Few fish were seen and there were fishing boats in the vicinity.

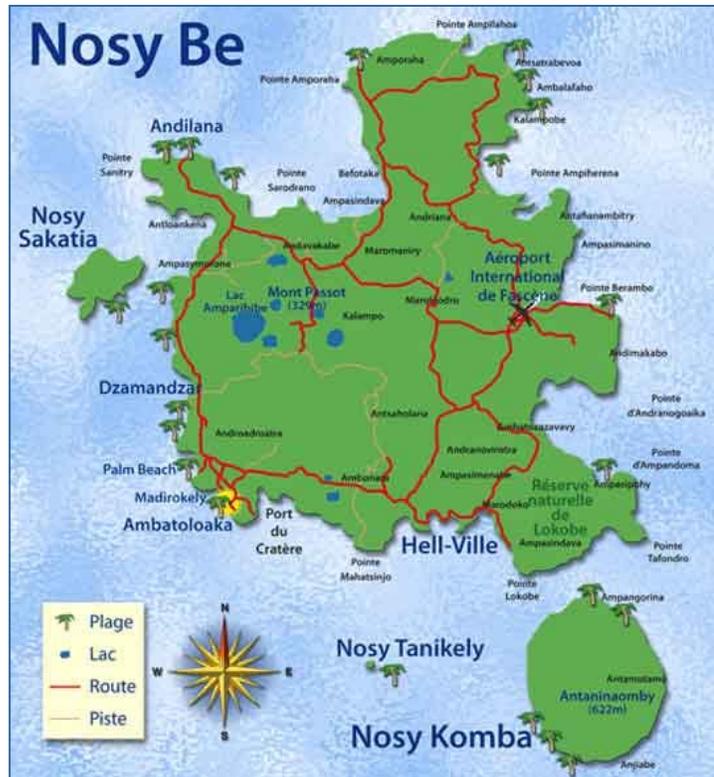
DEPTH OF WATER: 70 feet with a soft coral drop off. The diver was submerged (45 foot depth?) when he was bitten by the shark.

TIME: 09h30

NARRATIVE: Eight divers were underwater at a spot, where they seldom dived, about 11 nautical miles west of Ambatolaoka. Michel had been in the water for 10 minutes and his dive buddy was about 10 metres from him, taking pictures.

“The shark probably came from the bottom,” said Michel. “I saw it only a fraction of second, its big mouth wide open, before it hit me. I heard a big noise, waoomm, on the impact. I felt dizzy for a few seconds, since it hit my head and chest. I had to use my octopus to breathe since my regulator was torn off, the mouth piece broken, and my mask skirt punctured . . . The attack was so sudden that I didn't have time to do something, not even to be afraid. I went to my buddy who assisted me for the ascent following the usual procedure, with a (long!) two-minute deco stop. During the ascent I made a compression on my left forearm to lessen the bleeding.”

INJURY / TREATMENT: “The wound of the arm was oddly almost painless. A deep cut in my left forearm muscle and one on my chest were sutured under local anesthesia with lidocain in a small Malagasy clinic in Hell-Ville. Luckily I had no sinew, no nerve damages,



and no ribs broken.”

SPECIES: “None of the other divers saw the shark except for my buddy Philippe. They were approximately 30 m away. It was a "hit and run" since the shark did not come back, thank God. . . .After talking to fellow divers, it may have been a tiger shark who tasted me, but no one can be sure. . . .Before that I had very few experiences with sharks, I had met a few whitetips, grey sharks or whale sharks. It's true that I still love those splendid animals, and look forward to meet them again, in a more peaceful way.”

SOURCE: Dr. Michel Touzet via Shark Attack Survivors