



ACTIVITY: Windsurfing

CASE: [GSAF 2010.08.07.a](#)

DATE: Saturday August 7, 2010

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Mediterranean off Fort St. Elmo, Valletta, Malta.

35°53'59"N, 14°30'53"E

NAME: David Bonavia

DESCRIPTION: He is 35-year-old male from Valletta.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waning Crescent, 10% of the Moon was illuminated. New Moon, August 9, 2010.

NARRATIVE: When David Bonavia noticed a fin next to his windsurfer, he fell into the sea in panic. He quickly scrambled back onto his board and then could see that the fin belonged to a shark. It kept circling the board for about 45 minutes.

His initial efforts to wave for help were unsuccessful and he was also unable to pull up his sail because of the strong wind. Suddenly, the shark charged into the sail and bit a piece off. Bonaviva said he used a metal hook on his harness to hit the fish the next time it came



Fort St. Elmo is the fortification at the tip of the Sciberras Peninsula.

near. The shark then started keeping its distance. Eventually Bonavia managed to wave down a tourist boat which alerted the AFM and he was rescued by a launch.

INJURY: The windsurfer was not injured but the shark bit a piece from his sail, and he was reportedly treated for severe shock in a hospital.

SPECIES: Not identified. According to Mr. Bonavia, the shark was three metres in length.

SOURCES: Times of Malta, August 9, 2010

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20100809/local/police-investigate-reported-shark-attack>

Times of Malta, August 10, 2010

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20100810/local/shark-bit-my-sail>

Gozo News.Com, August 14, 2010

<http://gozonews.com/14368/nature-trust-malta-and-the-shark-sighting-incident/>

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Alex Buttigieg



Photo: Matthew Mirabelli

Windsurfer David Bonavia with the torn sail.