

ACTIVITY: Swimming
CASE: GSAF 2010.11.27.a
DATE: Saturday November 27, 2010
LOCATION: Native Dog Beach, Western Australia.

NAME: Michael Utley
DESCRIPTION: He was a 30-year-old male from Britain.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 69% of the Moon was illuminated. Full Moon, November 22, 2010.

SEA CONDITIONS: "It's a pretty rough coastline and the conditions were atrocious where they went in to have a swim," said Sergeant Scott. "Where he was actually swimming there was a lot of foamy water about and visibility was poor because of that."

NARRATIVE: Utley was swimming with friends when they encountered a strong rip current. His friends were washed ashore. A team of more than 100 rescuers, including police divers, surf life-savers, supported by helicopters and boats combed the area. Next day, his body was found on neighboring Dillon Beach.

INJURY: Fatal, but circumstances suggest cause of death was drowning, not shark bite, however, the mortuary workers said they will be able to determine if there is evidence that shark involvement preceded drowning..

SPECIES: A helicopter spotted a white shark close to where the man's body was found.

SOURCE: Richard Shears, Mail Online, December 2, 2010, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1334763/Shark-seen-lurking-waters-British-backpacker-lost-life.html#ixzz16yP2QpKJ>



The rip current at Native Dog Beach saw Mr Utley's friends dragged to another part of the coastline, close to where he was found.



Michael Utley