

**ACTIVITY:** Scuba Diving

**CASE:** GSAF 2011.10.22

**DATE:** Saturday October 22, 2011

**LOCATION:** The attack took place in the Indian Ocean off Little Armstrong Bay on the north coast of Rottnest Island, 12 kilometres west of Perth, Western Australia.

**NAME:** George "Thomas" Wainwright

**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 32-year-old, male from Houston, Texas. He was only 17- or 18-years-old when he became among the youngest residents to get his captain's license. He later ran a charter boat business. Wainwright, who went by the name Thomas, also helped with the BP oil spill cleanup in the Gulf of Mexico last year and appeared in a BP video. He moved to Australia six months ago, taking a job as a project manager with a marine company. He emailed family members about returning to Florida for a Christmas visit.

**SUPPORT BOAT:** A 25-foot Bertram.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** At 13h30, Perth recorded clear skies. The air temperature was 77°F, dew point 53.6°F, humidity 44%, sea level pressure 29.83 inches and wind direction was WSW at 15mph.

**MOON PHASE:** Waning Crescent, 29% of the Moon was illuminated. New Moon, October 27, 2011.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 500 metres

**TIME:** 13h30

**NARRATIVE:** Wainwright was diving alone. Two friends, Justin and Allison Branner, were on board his boat. All three had been diving that day, and although Wainwright was the only one in the water at the time of the incident, the Banners were continually monitoring him from the vessel. Then, they said, we saw a "flurry of bubbles" in the water and immediately knew something was wrong." Shortly afterwards, Wainwright's body surfaced with "obvious traumatic fatal injuries". After retrieving the body, his friends called emergency services.

**SPECIES:** Wainwright's friends said they saw a three-metre white shark around the time his body surfaced.



*George Wainwright*

#### **Shark kills U.S. diver in Australia**

A great white shark killed an American diver Saturday in the second fatal shark attack off Western Australia state in 12 days.

A witness on a dive boat saw "a large amount of bubbles" before the man surfaced with obviously fatal injuries, Western Australia Police Sgt. Gerry Cassidy said.

The shark struck 11 miles from a popular Perth beach where a 64-year-old swimmer is believed to have been taken by a great white on Oct. 10.

The 32-year-old American killed Saturday was living in Perth on a work visa. Police would not release his identity or hometown.

*Philadelphia Inquirer*



*Shark seen off Rottnest island*



*Rottnest Island*