

ACTIVITY: Spearfishing

CASE: GSAF 2012.12.02

DATE: Sunday December 2, 2012

LOCATION: The accident took place at Green Island, off South West Rocks, New South Wales, Australia.

NAME: Unknown

DESCRIPTION: He is a 31-year-old male.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: Kempsey recorded 19-mile visibility. The air temperature was 80F, dew point 70F, humidity 66% to 69%, wind speed 2 mph and no rain.

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 90% of the Moon was illuminated. Full Moon, November 29, 2012. Last Quarter, December 7, 2012.

ENVIRONMENT: South West Rocks is located on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales near the mouth of the Macleay River. It is approximately 40 km from Kempsey.

TIME: 16h45

NARRATIVE: The diver was nudged by a shark that was apparently after a dead fish attached to his weight belt. Fish Rock Dive Centre instructor Jake Wilton, said the man had a dead fish attached to his weight belt, which attracted the shark. "Spear fisherman need to make sure they attach dead fish to floatlines, not to their weight belts. Otherwise it's like dangling a sausage in front of a hungry kookaburra," he said.

INJURY: The spearfisherman sustained minor puncture wounds to his right knee.

FIRST AID: Ambulance paramedics treated the man at a boat ramp, then transported him to Kempsey District Hospital (or Port Macquarie Hospital) where he underwent surgery next day. He is expected to make a full recovery.

SPECIES: The accident involved a three-metre grey nurse shark.



Spear fisherman bitten by shark

A spear fisherman has been bitten by what is believed to have been a grey nurse shark, on the New South Wales mid-north coast.

The man in his early 30s was bitten on his right knee while diving at Green Island, off South West Rocks, at about 4:45pm on Sunday. The area is popular with divers.

The injured man was treated by Ambulance paramedics at the boat ramp then taken to the Kempsey District Hospital in a stable condition.

Witnesses say it seemed to be an accidental wounding and the three-metre shark got more of a fright than the diver. Grey nurse sharks are critically endangered and sometimes referred to as the 'laboradors of the sea' because of their docile nature.

SOURCE: ABC News, December 2, 2012, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-12-03/spear-fisherman-bitten-by-shark/4404472>

Fisherman has close encounter with shark at NSW beach

A man has had a close encounter with a shark in northern NSW.

Paramedics were called to a boat ramp at South West Rocks, north of Port Macquarie, about 4.50pm on Sunday after reports a man had been bitten by a shark, a spokesman for the Ambulance Service of NSW said.

The man told them he had been bitten by a grey nurse shark, and he was taken to hospital suffering small bite marks, the spokesman said. A spokeswoman for Port Macquarie Base Hospital said the 31-year-old man was in a stable condition with minor injuries.

An employee at a local dive shop, who asked not to be named, said divers had told him the man was spearfishing at Green Island, just off shore. "He had a dead fish strapped to him and a shark gave him a nudge," he said. "I think he was swimming around for a while."

Inspector Shane Cribb, of Mid North Coast local area command, said it was a very minor incident. "He got nudged by a shark. He didn't even require stitches." Inspector Cribb couldn't say whether the man was a spear fisherman because police involvement was minimal.

Beaches in the area remain open, a spokeswoman for Kempsey Shire Council said.

SOURCE: The Sydney Morning Herald, December 3, 2012, <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/animals/fisherman-has-close-encounter-with-shark-at-nsw-beach-20121203-2aq2q>

Shark victim undergoes surgery

A man bitten by a shark while spear fishing on the NSW mid-north coast has undergone surgery. Paramedics were called to a boat ramp to meet the man who had been bitten by a grey nurse shark at Green Island off South West Rocks shortly before 5pm (AEDT) on Sunday.

He was taken to Port Macquarie Hospital and underwent surgery on Monday to puncture wounds on his leg and is expected to make a full recovery.

Fish Rock Dive Centre instructor Jake Wilton, who dives with grey nurse sharks daily in the Green Island critical habitat area, said they were placid. He said the man who was attacked had a dead fish attached to his weight belt, which attracted the shark. 'It wasn't an attack, the shark was just hungry,' Mr Wilton said. 'I dive with the sharks every day and I've never had a problem. 'Spear fisherman need to make sure they attach dead fish to floatlines, not to their weight belts. 'Otherwise it's like dangling a sausage in front of a hungry kookaburra.'

SOURCE: Sky News, December 3, 2012, <http://www.skynews.com.au/local/article.aspx?id=822946>