

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: [GSAF 2013.02.27](#)

DATE: Wednesday February 27, 2013

LOCATION: The attack took place in the Tasman sea off Muriwai Beach, North Island, New Zealand.

NAME: Adam Strange

DESCRIPTION: He was a 46-year-old male. He was a strong, capable swimmer. An award-winning television and film director, he won advertising awards at Cannes and at the London International Advertising Awards, and his first feature, *Aphrodite's Farm*, won the Crystal Bear award for best short film at the 2009 Berlin Film Festival.



Adam Strange

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 13h00, Auckland recorded clear skies. The air temperature was 75.2°F, dew point 53.6°F, humidity 47%, sea level pressure 30.18 inches (falling), and wind direction was SE at 10.4 mph.

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, 99% of the Moon was illuminated.

ENVIRONMENT: DOC confirmed great whites had been spotted in the area as recently as the weekend. Earlier in the week surfer Bourne Nobel Buiski posted on Facebook that there had been a "massive" shark spotted near surfers on Monday at Piha, 14 kilometres south of Muriwai. He said that a local man ran out of the water "white faced and terrified ... He was saying that a great white, a massive great white had just swum right beside him." A local resident, who did not want to be named, said Muriwai had always had sharks. "Out the back of Oaia Island is a huge crater on the ocean floor and fishermen say they have seen huge sharks in the area and will not go diving there." The last confirmed shark death was in 1976, in Te Kaha, Bay of Plenty, when spearfisherman John Leith was attacked by what was thought to be a bronze whaler.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 200 metres

DEPTH OF WATER:

TIME: 13h24

NARRATIVE: Approximately 200 people were on the beach or in the water. Adam Strange was swimming alone from the bay to the beach, in training for an Ocean Swim event. Pio Mose, fishing on the rocks between Maori Bay and the beach, saw the man struggling with the shark. "He was still alive, he put his head up, we called him to swim over [to] the rocks where we were. He raised his hand up, and then while he was raising his hand up we saw another attack, and he was pulled under the water." Then the shark took the man's body seaward. According to Mose, after the second attack, three or four other sharks came into the area.

Police raced to the scene by road and the Eagle helicopter was dispatched. Eagle crew members spotted the shark while it was still near the man's body, and hovered above the shark so police, who were in the IRB with three lifeguards, could locate it. Police shot the

shark, but the shark “rolled away”. It took about 30 minutes to recover the body as two sharks circled. One shark was reportedly killed in the gunfire and its body, measuring 14-feet in length, washed up on shore a short time later.

INJURY: Fatal

SPECIES: The incident involved a white shark, 12- to 14-feet in length. Dr Malcolm Francis, NIWA Principal Scientist, said white sharks are known in the area and it is likely the shark mistook the person swimming as a seal. Next morning, rescue officials said that they had film which showed at least two sharks circling. Beaches north of Manukau Harbour were closed for the rest of the week. Since 1837, there have only been 15 fatal shark attacks in New Zealand, and of those, white sharks were involved in at least 11 of them.



Muriwai Beach



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