

ACTIVITY: Diving

CASE: [GSAF 2013.09.29.a](#)

DATE: Sunday September 29, 2013

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Mediterranean Sea at Ashdod Port, 40 kilometers south of Tel Aviv, in the Southern District of Israel.

NAME: Erez Lev

DESCRIPTION: He is a 27-year old male, a worker at an offshore open-water fish farm.



Fish farm at Ashdod Port

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waning Crescent, 30% of the Moon was illuminated. Last Quarter, September 27, 2013.

ENVIRONMENT: As the demand for ocean and/or farmed fish soars and ocean stocks of fish declining, fisheries around the world are adapting their cultivation methods in an effort to meet demand. Israel has a number of successful fish farms throughout the country and has some in the sea. Farms in Eilat harbor were removed after a controversy over whether they were harming the coral reefs in the Bay of Eilat/Aqaba. The fish farms were then placed at Ashdod where there is tremendous activity of large ships, a source of fuel and oil contamination. The harbor area also includes a large industrial area with oil refineries, a power plant and Agan Chemicals, whose effluent reaches the harbor without passing through a treatment plant. These effluents include hazardous chemicals such as pesticides, methanol, fuel mixtures, ammonia, disinfectants and more, which have amassed in the port waters over the years. If present in the water, these chemicals will accumulate in the tissues of the fish and may present a health hazard to the people who eat the fish. Since the fish in the cages are raised for food, there are concerns that consumption of the fish presents a threat to human health.

However, the accident may have occurred at Royal Fish farm, which employs the Subflex method of deep-water fish farming system in which underwater cages are used to raise fish for the marketplace. These are single-point mooring submersible, flexible net cage systems, which include a series of cages lined up in a row, one after another. Each cage is individual and its possible to disengage and separate it as needed, and change the fish population in the specific cage. The system is able to rotate 360 degrees around the anchor unit in the direction of the water stream, enabling optimal distribution of the waste. The cages can also be submerged in bad weather. The fish are raised in as close to a natural, free environment as possible running with their schools in a relatively clean environment, without the problems endemic to other forms of fish farming. (See: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0yHBVopIVQ>). However, sharks can and do breach the cages.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: Seven kilometers

TIME: 11h30

NARRATIVE: Sharks are protected in Israel's waters. A large amount of biomass is concentrated at fish farms which attracts apex predators such as sharks and dolphins that come to feed on the fish, fish food and leftovers. Sharks and dolphins are sometimes

harmd by the workers while protecting the fish in the cages, not the other way around. The diver was working with a colleague at a warren of undersea fish cages. According to the manager of the operation, a shark had managed to get into one of fish cages and the diver attempting to "scare the shark out of the cage" when it bit him. His dive buddy pulled him from the water and rushed him to shore by boat.

INJURY: Lacerations to right forearm and hand.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: On the shore he was treated by Magen David Adom paramedics. Then he was transported to Sourasky Medical Center (Ichilov), a premier academic medical care and research hospital in Tel Aviv. He underwent surgery the same afternoon. His surgeons said the patient would not lose his hand.

SPECIES: Not identified

SOURCES: Jerusalem Post,
<http://www.jpost.com/National-News/26-year-old-man-bitten-by-shark-moderately-hurt-off-Ashdod-Port-327376>

Ynet news, <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4434302,00.html>

Times of Israel, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/diver-bitten-by-shark-to-be-released-from-hospital/>