



**ACTIVITY:** Snorkeling

**CASE:** GSAF 2013.12.25

**DATE:** Christmas Day, Wednesday  
December 25, 2013

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Coral Sea at the beach called Billet de 500 at Lindéralique in Hienghène, a coastal village in the northern province of New Caledonia.

$20^{\circ}41'38.76''S, 164^{\circ}55'19.92''$

**NAME:** Loïc Merlet

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 37-year-old male, from Noumea, and he was wearing a mask, fins and snorkel.

### BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** At 11h00, Ile Art recorded an air temperature of 83°F, dew point 69°F, humidity 54%, sea level pressure 29.88 inches (falling), and wind speed of 11.5 mph.

**MOON PHASE:** Waning Gibbous, 55% of the Moon was illuminated. Last Quarter, December 26, 2013.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The water was green and murky.

**ENVIRONMENT:** On December 16, 2012, bathing was temporarily prohibited in Noumea due to the presence of a (lemon) shark three metres from shore.



*Lindéralique*

**DEPTH OF WATER:** 7 metres  
**TIME:** 10h00 or 11h00  
(reports differ)

**NARRATIVE:** He was snorkeling with friends when he was bitten by the shark. His friends brought him back to the beach and summoned first aid.

**INJURY:** Lacerations to left leg.

**TREATMENT:** The divers placed a tourniquet on his leg to stop blood loss. Firefighters transported him to a clinic, and then he was evacuated to CHT Gaston Bourret in Noumea where his injury was surgically repaired.

**SPECIES:** According to the diver and his friends, the incident involved a bull shark.

**SOURCE:** Les Nouvelles Caledoniennes, December 26, 2013,  
<http://www.lnc.nc/article/actualite-en-direct/video-mordu-par-un-requin>  
*et al*



*Loïc, recuperating in the hospital after surgery.*



*Centre Hospitalier Territorial Gaston-Bourret*