



**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** [GSAF 2015.07.22](#)

**DATE:** Wednesday July 22, 2015

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Indian Ocean at St. Leu on the west side of Reunion Island.

**NAME:** Rodolphe Arriéguy

**DESCRIPTION:** A 45-year-old male, a regular surfer in the area.

**BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** At 14h00, FMEP (the airport nearest St. Leu), recorded visibility of 6.2 miles, air temperature 77°F, dew point 59°F, humidity 54%, sea level pressure 30.15 inches (falling) and wind direction was ESE at 23 mph.

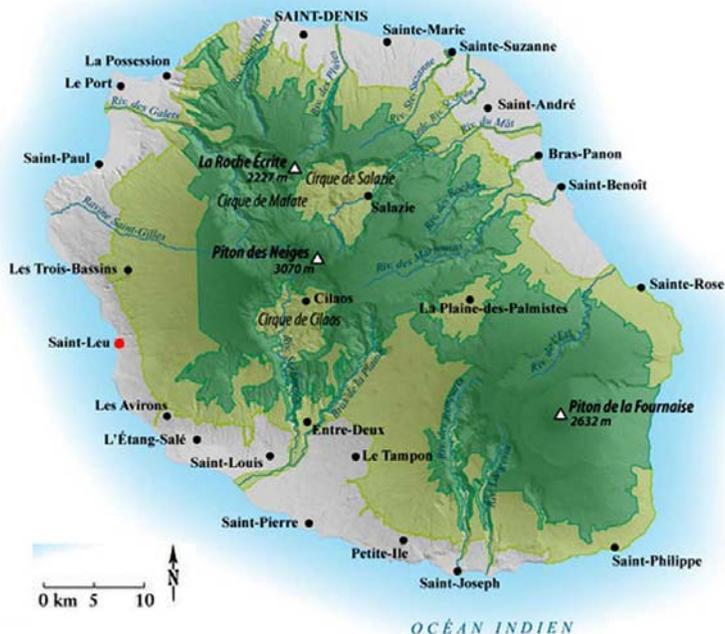
**MOON PHASE:** Waxing Crescent, 33% of the Moon was illuminated.

First Quarter, July 24, 2015.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The sea was very clear and glassy with four- to five-foot surf.

**ENVIRONMENT:** St. Leu is considered the top destination for surfers on Reunion Island.

**TIME:** 14h00



**NARRATIVE:** There were four other surfers in the water when Rodolphe Arriéguy was bitten twice by a shark. According to Davy Stolk, who had exited the water just fifteen minutes prior, a friend was bitten on the forearm in the channel at St Leu while paddling back in. "I had just gotten out the water and was eating a sandwich when my neighbour tells me there's been an attack," said Davy. "Seeing as I knew everyone who was out there, I was worried. I phoned my friend Tarzan and he said it was all good. Rudolph was paddling in through the channel and was just off the beach in front of the surf club when he got hit." One of the other surfers realized what had happened and a rescue chain which included a kayaker was

immediately set up.”

**INJURY:** Severe lacerations to right biceps and forearm, necessitating surgical amputation.

**FIRST AID:** Local surfer Alain Courtois said that a group of surfers were able to tie a leash around the patient’s arm and get him safely to shore where firefighters took over and the patient was evacuated to Groupe hospitalier Sud Réunion (South Reunion Hospital Group).

**SPECIES:** Thought to involve a bull shark approximately two metres in length.

**SOURCES:** Zig Zag Magazine, July 22, 2015

<http://www.zigzag.co.za/news/environment/surfer-bitten-at-st-leu-reunion/>

Clicanoo, July 23, 2015

<http://www.clicanoo.re/484159-attaque-de-requin-l-eau-n-etait-pas-claire-hier-a-saint-leu.html>

Clicanoo, July 23, 2015

<http://www.clicanoo.re/484158-un-requin-bouledogue-peche-cette-nuit-dans-la-region-de-saint-leu.html>

LINFO.RE, July 23, 2015

<http://www.linfo.re/la-reunion/faits-divers/673640-rodolphe-45-ans-attaque-par-un-requin>

Clicanoo, July 24, 2015

<http://www.clicanoo.re/484236-le-surfeur-toujours-a-l-hopital.html>

Clicanoo, July 26, 2015

<http://www.clicanoo.re/484426-manifestation-de-soutien-au-surfeur-ampute-la-collecte-de-fonds-fait-tiquer-la-prefecture.html>