



ACTIVITY: Sea disaster

CASE: [GSAF 2015.12.19](#)

DATE: Saturday December 19, 2015

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Caribbean Sea off Aruba.

NAME: Adrian Esteban Rafael

DESCRIPTION: He was a 58-year-old Venezuelan male and captain of the vessel *Doña Matilde*.

BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT: According to one of the rescuers, Roel Uckerman, dolphins were in the vicinity.

NARRATIVE: The *Doña Matilde*, one of the many Venezuelan traders that ply the Caribbean, was en-route from Bonaire to Aruba with a cargo of whiskey when the boat was hit by a wave and capsized. Two men perished when the vessel capsized. Captain Adrian Esteban Rafael was clinging to a rescue buoy suspended from a Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard helicopter when he was attacked by a shark. Four crew members who survived by holding on to a refrigerator and pallet were hospitalized in Aruba for dehydration and were still recovering Tuesday December 22, 2015.

INJURY: Fatal. The man was pulled out of the water and taken to hospital, but died enroute.

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SPECIES: It is not known for certain what species of shark was responsible for the attack. Uckerman thought the attack may have involved a Caribbean reef shark and tiger sharks are common in Caribbean waters.

SOURCES: Fox News, December 22, 2015

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2015/12/22/shark-kills-ships-captain-during-coast-guard-rescue-near-aruba.html?intcmp=hplnws>

The Guardian, December 22, 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/dec/22/man-killed-by-shark-in-caribbean-while-being-rescued-by-coast-guard>

The Independent, December 22, 2015

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/shark-attack-leaves-venezuelan-man-dead-after-boat-capsizes-near-aruba-a6781851.html>