



ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2016.12.01

DATE: Thursday December 1, 2016

LOCATION: The incident took place at Seven Mile beach at a break known as Bulls Paddock near The Ruins Campground at the southern end of Booti Booti National Park, New South Wales, Australia.

NAME: Colin Rowland

DESCRIPTION: A 65-year-old male. The former real estate agent has been surfing for 54 years.



BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 09h06, Forster recorded partly cloudy skies. The air temperature was 60°F, sea level pressure 29.65 inches and wind direction was SSW.

MOON PHASE: New Moon, 2% of the Moon was illuminated.

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea surface temperature was 69°F. At Blueys Beach, 5 miles from Booti Booti National Park, mean high tide occurred at 09h49.

ENVIRONMENT: On November 30, 2016, there were four reported shark sightings at Forster, 10 kilometres north of Booti Booti.

TIME: Just after 09h00

NARRATIVE: Colin Rowland as sitting on his board behind the surf break when the shark shot up from below, snapping his board in two. Rowland was dragged below the surface by

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his leg rope. Another surfer dragged Rowland onto his own surfboard and paddled him to shore.

INJURY: Puncture wounds / lacerations to right arm and foot.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Rowland was taken to the Pacific Palms Bowling Club where he was met by the Westpac Rescue helicopter and then airlifted to John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle in stable condition.



The damage sustained by the surfboard suggests that the board, not the man, was the focus of the shark.

SPECIES: The incident involved a white shark, thought to be at least 2.5 metres in length. The damage sustained by the surfboard suggests that the board, not the man, was the focus of the shark.

REPORTED BY: Melissa Michaelson

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Bob Myatt, GSAF

SOURCES: ABC.net.au, December 1, 2016
<http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2016-12-01/65yo-man-treated-after-shark-attack-on-mid-north-coast/8082360?pfmredir=sm>

The Herald, December 1, 2016
<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/4328584/surfer-attacked-by-shark-near-forster/>

The Daily Telegraph, December 1, 2016
<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/man-bitten-by-shark-at-beach-in-booti-booti-national-park-near-foster/news-story/2912bbeb2d29a6f521c708dcb60adb59>

News.com.au, December 1, 2016
<http://www.news.com.au/national/queensland/news/surfer-attacked-by-shark-on-nsw-mid-north-coast/news-story/148ae7a575c4c97ede6acd23997f8eb2>



Colin Rowland