

ACTIVITY: Wading

CASE: GSAF 2002.11.00

DATE: November 2002

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean on Tetiaroa, a coral atoll owned by film star Marlon Brando. Tetiaroa is in the Society Islands of French Polynesia.

NAME: Scott Heywood

DESCRIPTION: He is a member of the Explorers Club.

BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT On his website, Heywood describes Tetiaroa atoll, "This paradise of swaying palms, healthy coral reefs, azure cuts and turquoise lagoons is bordered with hard bottomed, excellent white sand flats that hold BIG bonefish...very big bonefish. On Tetiaroa, bonefish are not seen in the numbers of the Bahamas or Caribbean, but the average size of the bonefish on Teitiaroa is simply awesome."

DEPTH OF WATER: Two feet

TIME:

NARRATIVE: Scott was fishing for bonefish and wading along the edge of the atoll 20 feet from the edge of a deep channel. Suddenly, a shark swam up from the bottom of the channel, cleared the edge of the atoll, and accelerated toward Scott. He waited for it to veer off but the shark didn't swerve and hit him swimming at full throttle, and then swam away. "The only things I can think of that might have triggered the attack was that the shark hadn't seen many people in that remote area and the sharks in that area seemed to be more aggressive than normal."

INJURY: The shark slammed into Scott's shin. The force of the collision knocked him down. He apprehensively touch his lower leg where the shark had hit him, worried the shark might have severed an artery and concerned that there would be blood in the water. He was amazed to discover the shark had not bitten him but "I had an awful bone bruise that bothered me for three weeks," Scott said.

EQUIPMENT DAMAGE: The shark ripped his wading pants to shreds.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Blacktip shark

SOURCE: Scott Heywood, Angling Destinations,
http://www.anglingdestinations.com/Recent.php?action=adv&RECADV_ID=16

