

**ACTIVITY:** Spearfishing

**CASE:** GSAF 2008.10.06

**DATE:** Monday October 6, 2008

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Adriatic Sea at Mala Smokova Cove, Vis Island, Croatia.

43°4'N, 16°15'E

**NAME:** Damjan Pecek

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 43-year-old Slovenian male from Lubiana, Slovenia.

### BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** At 12h00, Split Airport recorded scattered clouds and 6.2 miles [10 km] visibility. The air temperature was 64.4°F [18°C], dew point 50°F [10°C], humidity 59%, sea level pressure 30.18 inches [1022 hPa], and wind direction was East at 4.6 mph [7.4 km/h].

**MOON PHASE:** First Quarter, October 7, 2008

**ENVIRONMENT:** The divers had been spearing fish in the vicinity of the incident.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE** 10 metres

**TIME:** Morning

**NARRATIVE:** Damjan Pecek was spearfishing with friends, and had been in the water for 90 minutes. He speared a greater amberjack, *Seriola dumerili*, and placed it on the fish stringer attached to his waist. The fish was bleeding when the shark attempted to take the fish but grabbed the diver's leg in error. The diver grabbed the shark's gills with one hand while hitting it on the head with the other hand, and the shark released him.

**INJURY:** The diver sustained a severe injury to his left calf.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** The injured diver was immediately taken onboard the boat where bleeding was arrested. Then he was transported by helicopter to the Split hospital where he was reported to be in stable condition and expected to make a full recovery.

**SPECIES:** The shark was said to be 10 feet in length, and one of the divers who was on the boat, Bogdan Mesko, saw the silhouette of a white shark swimming at the surface. Two tooth fragments of a white shark, each measuring less than one cm in length, were recovered from the diver's leg. Alen Soldo confirmed the species identification.

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Dr. Alessandro De Maddalena



Damjan Pecek

