

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** GSAF 1987.10.26

**DATE:** Monday October 26, 1987

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean 1.6 kilometres north of Davenport Light at Swan Road, near Davenport, Santa Cruz County, California, USA.

*37°00.5'N, 122°12.7'W*

**NAME:** Conrad Brown

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 20-year-old male.

**SURFBOARD:** He was using a two-metre, multi-colored surfboard.

### BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** The sky was cloudy, the air temperature was 20°C and there was a light breeze.

**MOON PHASE:** Waxing Crescent, 16% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated. New Moon was October 22, 1987.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The sea was calm and the water temperature was about 15°C.

**ENVIRONMENT:** The incident took place over a shallow reef, and there was a kelp canopy about 20 metres to the north. A few marine mammals were seen in the immediate area during the two hours that Brown was surfing.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 50 metres

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Six feet

**TIME:** 17h00

**NARRATIVE:** Brown had been in the water for two hours and was porpoising his board through some white-water swells when a shark grabbed his upper left leg near the buttocks. Before the shark released the surfer, it bit down the surfer's leg to his heel.

**INJURY:** The surfer's injuries were not considered serious.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** Paramedics treated the surfer on the beach, then transferred him to a local hospital for treatment.

**SPECIES:** Brown described the shark as about two metres in length, dark gray or black on top with a white underbelly. Unfortunately, the description could fit a number of shark species common to the California coast, including a sub-adult white shark. Positive identification of the species involved in this incident could not be made.

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Ralph Collier

