

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 1995.03.11

DATE: Saturday March 11, 1995

LOCATION: The incident took place at Cactus Beach, 80 km west of Ceduna, South Australia.

NAME: Andy "Macca" McBain

DESCRIPTION: He is a 36-year-old male from Penong. He surfs about four times a week and has been surfing for 25 years. "It keeps you fit, keeps you cleansed and keeps your head pretty good," he says. "That's why I'm still at it and hopefully will be when I'm 65."

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, March 9, 1995

ENVIRONMENT: Sharks were feeding on schools of salmon when the incident took place.

TIME: 07h30

NARRATIVE: McBain was surfing with his mates when "the water just exploded; there were salmon jumping everywhere and I knew something was wrong," he said. "I started paddling away as fast as I could when the shark jumped out and hit the board and my hand. His head was right there on the board next to mine and we both just froze for a split second and looked at each other. When he came at me again I pushed the board into him and he turned away. I grabbed my board and it was the quickest I've ever got in to shore."

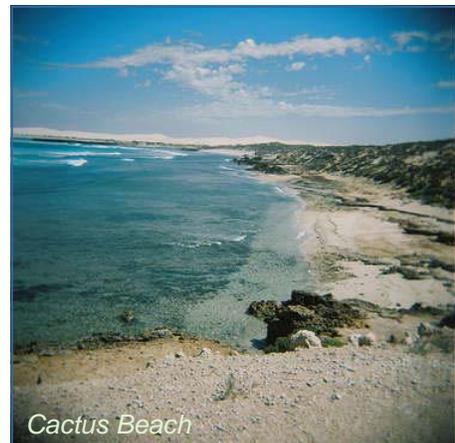
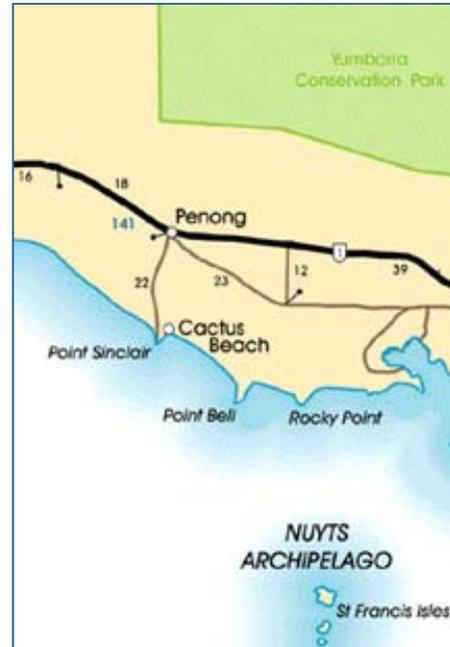
INJURY: Lacerations to left hand.

TREATMENT: The surfer was rushed to Whyalla Hospital for emergency surgery where more than 70 stitches were needed to repair the injury.

SPECIES: The incident involved a two-metre bronze whaler shark.

SOURCES: Advertiser, March 13, 1995, page 1, and Saturday July 22, 1995, Page 13

NOTE: Macca says he has no ill-feeling towards sharks. "We're in their territory so you can't blame them. I don't want to go out and kill sharks just because one bit me."



Samuel Gagnon