

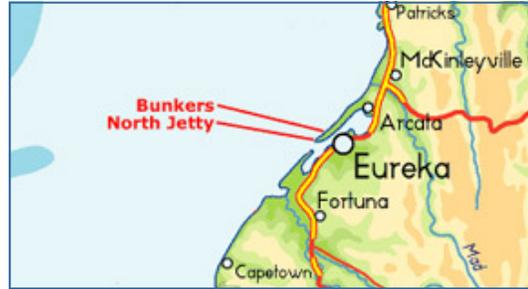
ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2000.11.04

DATE: November 4, 2000

LOCATION: The attack took place in the Pacific Ocean at Bunkers (1/4 to 1/2 mile north of North Jetty) in Humboldt Bay, Eureka, Humboldt County, California, USA.

40°40.21'N, 124°13.54'W



NAME: Casey Stewman

DESCRIPTION: The surfer is a 27-year-old white male. He is 5'8" tall and weighs 172 lbs, and was wearing a black wetsuit and grey booties. He is an experienced surfer and has been surfing for 14 years.

SURFBOARD: A 7'4" white pintail surfboard.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sky was overcast and there was a light north wind.

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, November 3, 2000

SEA CONDITIONS: Wave height was four to six feet (5 ft, 10 sec), and the sea was turbid with about 1.5 foot visibility.

ENVIRONMENT: There was no kelp canopy in the vicinity, however, a number of seals were present.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 250 to 300 yards

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: 15 feet

TIME: 16h30

NARRATIVE: Stewman was surfing at North Jetty in Humboldt Bay for about an hour along with eight other surfers. Then he saw some good waves up the beach at Bunkers and moved to that area.

Stewman was alone in the water, sitting on his board, when he had a feeling that something was beneath him and saw a grey shape moving below his surfboard. He caught a wave, then paddled back out and was sitting on his board looking for the next set. The shark came straight up at him from below, grabbed his legs and board, and pulled downwards. Stewman hit the shark and, as it released him the surfer felt the shark's body diving away from the site. His surfboard was floating away from him upside down, but Stewman grabbed it and climbed on. A wave hit him, which flipped the board around. He started paddling in and rode the next wave/whitewater in on his belly in order to get out of the water as fast as possible.

INJURY: Both thighs were bitten.

TREATMENT: The surfer was treated in the emergency room of Mad River Hospital in Arcata by Jay David, M.D. Thirty-one sutures were needed to repair the surfer's injury.

SPECIES INVOLVED: According to the surfer, the incident involved a white shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, about eight to ten feet [2.4 m to 3 m] total length.

CASE INVESTIGATORS: Data obtained by Jonathan Ramsey, DFG, Eureka, CA. Interview and additional data collected by Ralph S. Collier.

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