

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2005.12.24](#)

DATE: Saturday December 24, 2005

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean off Seaside Beach near Tillamook Head, Oregon, USA.

45.9°N, 123.9°W

NAME: Brian Anderson

DESCRIPTION: He is a 36-year-old male, an experienced surfer from Seaside, Oregon. He works at Surfs and Resort in Cannon Beach, paints houses, and makes surfboards. He was clad in a wetsuit.



Brian Anderson and his surfboard

SURFBOARD: He was using a six-foot white and black surfboard.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sky was cloudy. At 11h55, Astoria recorded overcast skies, 10-mile visibility, air temperature 62.1°F [16.7°C], dew point 57.9°F [14.4°C], humidity 86%, sea surface pressure 29.88 inches [1011.8 hPa], and wind direction was South at 15 mph [24.1 km/h], with gusts to 24.2 mph [38.9 km/h].

MOON PHASE: Last Quarter, 43% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated.

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was grey.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 yards

TIME: 12h00

NARRATIVE: Brian Anderson spent the morning surfing with his buddies. He was waiting for the last set of waves and was sitting on his board, his legs dangling in the water. Suddenly he felt some bite down hard "like a bear clamp" onto his right leg and foot. He looked down and saw the shark. "The nose of the shark came out of the water," he said. "It had this white triangle nose with these dark spots." He held his surfboard down with his left hand and punched the shark in its eye as hard as he could with his right hand. He knew the eyes are a sensitive spot. "It felt like hitting a piece of rubber," said the surfer. "There was nothing else I could do. I just wanted that thing to let go," he said. The shark released his leg, sank back under the water, and swam away. Anderson paddled back to shore, and was carried from the water by three surfers.

INJURY: There were deep lacerations to Anderson's right shin, foot and heel.

FIRST AID: Once Anderson reached the sand, John Newman and other friends helped him tie the surfboard's leash near the wounds as a tourniquet and called 9-1-1. His friends remained with him until the ambulance arrived.

TREATMENT: The surfer was admitted to Seaside Providence Hospital. His wound required about 70 sutures to repair, and he was released next day (Sunday). However, that evening he returned the hospital because of a possible infection in the wound. He was transferred to Emmanuel hospital in Portland where about half of the stitches were removed and he was given antibiotics intravenously and blood thinners. He remained in the hospital

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for two nights and was discharged on Wednesday. It was expected the injury would keep Anderson out of the water for at least three weeks.

“I’m still going to surf,” said Anderson. “I like being out there and feeling the speed sensation when you catch a wave. Nothing compares to it. I like sharks; ever since I was a kid, I always thought they were cool animals. And I watched a lot of shows and listened to what they say to do. I went over it in my mind,” he said.

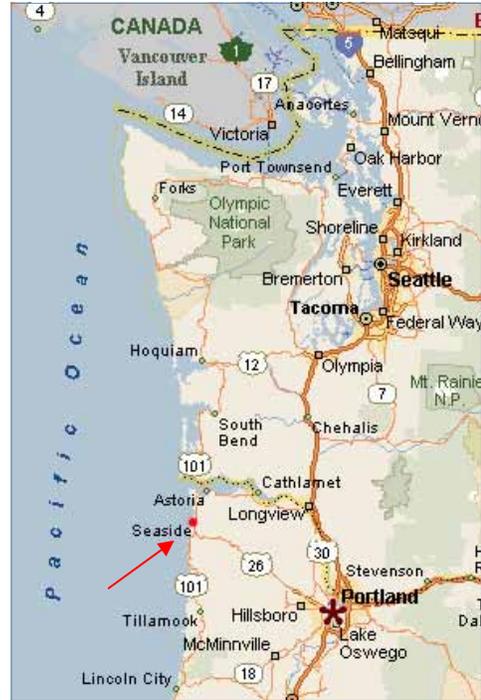
SPECIES: The incident involved a 10- to 12-foot white shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*.

SOURCES: Daily Astorian, December 27, 2005; kgw.co, December 29, 2005; <http://www.andersonshapes.com/shark.php>

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Ralph Collier

NOTE: In January 2006, Brian Anderson opened his own surfing manufacturing shop in Oregon.

On March 13, 2006, he returned to the sea for a surfing session — the first since he was injured by the shark.



Seaside, Oregon