

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** GSAF 2006.12.10

**DATE:** Sunday December 10, 2006

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean at Dillon Beach, Marin County, California, USA.

38.24°N, 122.96°W

**NAME:** Royce Fraley

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 43-year-old male from Guerneville. He is 6'3" tall, weighs 160 pounds and was clad in black wetsuit and wore a 10' polyethylene leash on his right ankle.

**SURFBOARD:** A 7'6" white surfboard.

### BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** At 11h53, Santa Rosa recorded scattered clouds and visibility of 10 miles [16.1 km]. The air temperature was 54°F [12.°C]; dew point 46°F [7.8°C], humidity 75%, sea level pressure 30.09 inches [1018.9 hPa, and there was no wind.

**MOON PHASE:** Waning Gibbous, 70% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated. Full Moon, December 6, 2006.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** "A couple of hundred feet"

**TIME:** 11h50

**NARRATIVE:** Fraley was resting face down on his board waiting for a wave when he felt a surge of water beneath him, said Marin County Fire Capt. Rick Wonneberger. Then a shark clamped onto his surfboard, its teeth shooting through the board.

"It lifted him up, and then he felt a sting in his right hip and upper thigh, and the shark took him and dove down with him about 15 feet," Wonneberger said. "He was holding the board with all of his might. As he went down, the resistance was too much, and he popped up and rocketed out of the water."

Fraley and a friend who was surfing nearby swam quickly to shore.

**INJURY:** The shark's teeth nicked Fraley's right hip and upper thigh but did not draw blood.

**DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT:** There were teeth marks on the bottom of the surfboard near the center, midway along its length, as well as four teeth marks on the rail of the surfboard. "Where there were teeth marks, there was quite a bit of blood from the shark that was embedded into the foam of the board," said Fraley.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** Paramedics and sheriff's deputies arrived on the scene, but Fraley chose to drive himself to Palm Drive Hospital in Sebastopol, where he was given antibiotics to ward off infection. His injury was minor and did not require hospitalization.



*Teeth marks on surfboard show an 18-inch bite radius*



*Surfer Royce Fraley is examined after shark incident*

**SPECIES:** The incident involved a white shark 12 to 15 feet in length.

**SOURCES:** Mercury News, December 11, 2006,  
[http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/local/states/california/northern\\_california/16213075.htm](http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/local/states/california/northern_california/16213075.htm)

Jim Doyle, San Francisco Chronicle, December 23, 2006,  
<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/12/23/BAGHBN50CR30.DTL>

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Chronicle / Michael Macor



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