

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2007.07.28

DATE: Saturday July 28, 2007

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean near the pier at Imperial Beach just south of San Diego, California, USA.

32°34'32"N, 117°07'2"W

NAME: Jordan Springer

DESCRIPTION: He is a 20-year-old male, 5'9" tall and weighs 175 lbs. He was clad in a black top half wetsuit and white board shorts. He is in the US Navy.

SURFBOARD: White

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 22h53, Imperial Beach recorded clear skies and visibility of 10 miles [16.1 km]. The air temperature was 64.9°F [18.3°C], dew point 61°F [16.1°C], humidity 87%, sea level pressure 29.91 in [1012.9 hPa], and wind direction was West at 3.5 mph [5.6 km/h].

MOON PHASE: Full moon.

SEA CONDITIONS: The water temperature was about 73°F and there was "decent surf". Due to darkness and the surf, underwater visibility was nil.

ENVIRONMENT: The ocean floor was sandy, there was some kelp but there was no deep-water channel in the vicinity. The surfer was near the pier but was not aware of any fishing activity. The grunion were spawning and there had been numerous encounters with juvenile white sharks during the month.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 50 yards

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: Five feet

TIME: 23h00 [11 p.m.]

NARRATIVE: Jordan Springer and Chris Campbell had been surfing by the pier for about 30 minutes. Jordan rode a wave inshore and was paddling out again when Chris saw fish jumping and told him to keep his feet out of the water. Less than two minutes later Jordan met the shark. "I had been paddling and my left hand was in the air to do the next stroke," said Jordan. "Next thing I know a shark was on my board. When I saw [the shark] had hold of my surfboard I just hit it as hard as I could, and got out of the water as soon as possible."

INJURY: The surfer was not injured by the shark.

SPECIES: Due to darkness, the surfer was unable to identify the species of shark involved in the incident.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Ralph Collier

