



**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** [GSAF 2007.12.09](#)

**DATE:** Sunday December 9, 2007

**LOCATION:** Meatworks surf break at Kaikoura, South Island, New Zealand.

**42.4°S, 173.7°E**

**NAME:** Olivia Hislop

**DESCRIPTION:** She is a female from Kaikoura.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** New Moon, December 10, 2007

**ENVIRONMENT:** Kaikoura lies within the Southern Hemisphere Whale Sanctuary. Several different species of whales frequent Kaikoura a different times of the year. Sperm whales feed here, building up their strength before moving to the mating grounds of the warm north. Orcas are often sighted in Kaikoura and schools of pilot whales are occasional visitor. Other marine species in the area are the dusky dolphin and fur seals are abundant, as are seabirds. Ms Hislop said that she was told two other surfers at the beach have been bumped by sharks in recent weeks.





*Olivia Hislop with the surf leash severed by the shark that harassed her*

**NARRATIVE:** Olivia Hislop was waiting for a wave when she felt a tug on her surfboard. She turned around, expecting to see a friend fooling about, but saw a shark, half on top of her board, gnashing its teeth. Hanging half off the board herself, she started playing tug-of-war with the shark to get her board back. The shark then turned around, smacked her in the forehead with its tail and swam off. "That's when everyone said it was quite a big one because they could see the size of its tail," she said. "After it happened, I was a bit dazed and everyone was freaking out."

Undeterred, she paddled out to catch another wave. Less than 10 minutes after the first incident, as she put her bare feet in the water she felt the shark bang them. After bringing up a foot to see if her toes were still there, she realised the shark had bitten through her leash. "I was expecting to see my toes just dangling." She found it strange the shark had targeted her again and said it might be because she was the only one with bare legs. "Must have been the white bait," she joked. (Her pale feet may well have appeared to be injured fish floating near the surface.)

After the second incident, she said she was 'feeling shocked,' and decided to go and sit on the beach.

**INJURY:** No injury

**SPECIES:** Not identified. Ms. Hislop said it was hard to know how big or what sort the shark was, but that she had been bothered by sharks in the past. "You just see them and think they are mucking around, but it's when they are too curious ... [This one] was definitely big

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enough not to be cute.”

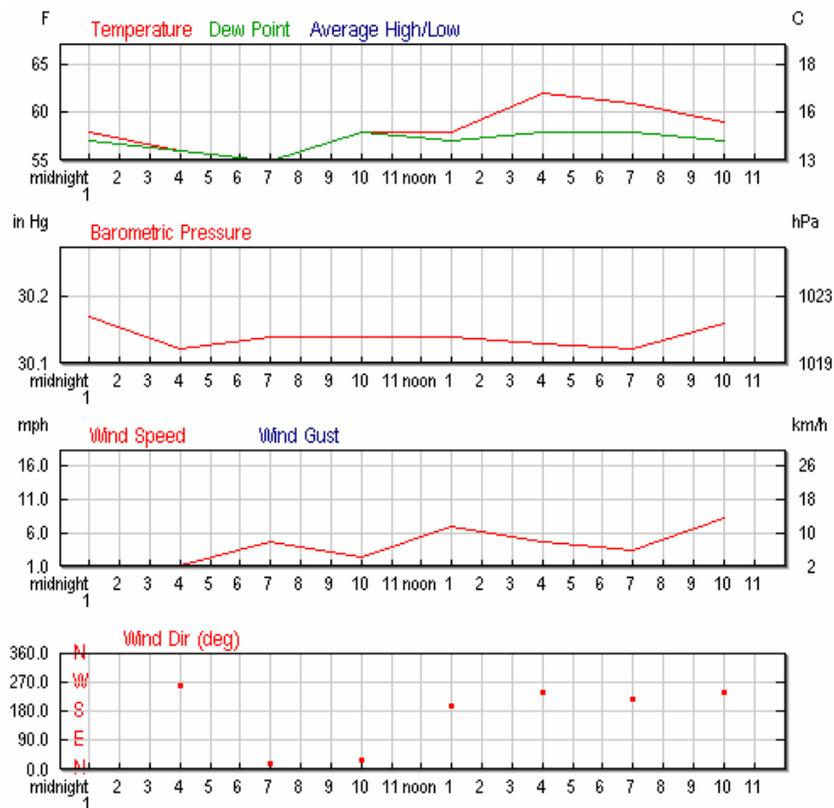
**SOURCES:** The Marlborough Express  
marlexpress.co.nz

New Zealand Herald,  
[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/1/story.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=10481741](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/1/story.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10481741)

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Radio New Zealand  
[http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/latest/200712121219/surfer\\_not\\_deterred\\_by\\_shark\\_attack](http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/latest/200712121219/surfer_not_deterred_by_shark_attack)

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Richard D. Weeks, Global Shark Accident File.



*Weather at Kaikoura on December 9, 2007*