

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** [GSAF 2008.05.24.a](#)

**DATE:** Saturday May 24, 2008

**LOCATION:** The accident took place in the Pacific Ocean at Playa Linda, Guerrero, Mexico

**NAME:** Bruce Grimes (or Greems)

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 49-year-old male from Florida who runs a local surf shop.

### BACKGROUND

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, May 20, 2008; Last Quarter, May 27, 2008

**ENVIRONMENT:** Playa Linda is a 10-minute drive north of Ixtapa, the town made famous by the movie "The Shawshank Redemption", and near the mouth of the Salitrera River. This was the third shark accident involving surfers in the area in less than a month; on April 28, 2008, Adrian Ruiz was killed at Troncones, and on May 23, 2008, Osvaldo Mata Valdovinos was also fatally injured by a shark at Pantla Beach.

Officials blame the influx of sharks in the area on climate change. "We brought shark specialists to the area and the first thing they said was that (the animals' presence) could be because of cold water currents caused by climate change," said Guerrero state's environment minister, Sabas de la Rosa.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 200 metres

**TIME:** Before 09h00

**NARRATIVE:** Bruce Grimes was straddling his surfboard when he felt the skin of the shark glide across the bottom of his feet. "Then it bumped me really hard. I thought, 'That's definitely a big shark.' I took about three more strokes and he grabbed my arm," said Grimes, who pulled himself free and made it to the beach.

**INJURY:** The surfer sustained punctures and lacerations to his thumb, hand, and forearm.



The injuries were not considered serious.

**FIRST AID:** The surfer drove himself to the hospital, arriving there shortly after 0900.

**TREATMENT:** The surfer was treated at al Hospital Naval de Ixtapa in Zihuatanejo. Dr. Jose Ernesto Lerín Sanchez, director of the hospital said the surfer's injuries were sutured, he was given antibiotics and tetanus vaccine, and released an hour after he arrived. According to a later report, the surfer's injuries required 100 stitches.

**SPECIES:** According to the surfer, the incident involved a bull shark about nine feet in length.

**SOURCES:** Fox News, Thursday, May 29, 2008, <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,360262,00.html>

LA Times, June 19, 2008

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/la-sp-sharks19-2008jun19,0,849527.column?page=1>



*An early report said Mr. Grimes lost his thumb, but the photos indicate otherwise.*



*Playa Linda*