



*Stephen Perkins recovers after surgery on his arm (left)
The blue shark moments before it bit Mr Perkins*

ACTIVITY: Fishing

CASE: [GSAF 2008.08.30.a](#)

DATE: Saturday August 30, 2008

LOCATION: The incident took place in St George's Channel, 20 miles west of Lundy Island off North Devon, England.

BOAT: *Serenity*, a 24ft Hardy "fast fishing" boat

NAME: Stephen Perkins

DESCRIPTION: He is a 52-year-old male, a carpenter from Sully near Barry, South Wales.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 0% of the moon was illuminated.

ENVIRONMENT: Lundy Island, England's only statutory marine nature reserve, lies off the coast of North Devon, where the Atlantic ocean meets the Bristol Channel. The channel lies in the Atlantic gulf stream and is rich with marine life carried north from warmer waters.

TIME: Morning

NARRATIVE: Perkins was fishing for sharks with three friends when the first shark was hooked. After a 15 minute struggle the fish was hauled onto the deck of the boat. "We don't harm the sharks when we hook them", he said. "We just take a picture and put them back in the water, but the one I got was pretty lively," said Perkins. As he tried to restrain the fish, it bit his right forearm. Recounting the incident he said: "We were all holding the shark to stop it struggling but I took my eye off it for a second and that's all it took. . .The shark locked its jaws around my arm."

INJURY: The fisherman sustained puncture wounds and lacerations to his wrist and right forearm. The bite severed two arteries and removed six inches of flesh.

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FIRST AID / TREATMENT: His friends radioed the Coastguard for help and wrapped a towel around his wound to stem the bleeding. A RAF helicopter transported the fisherman to North Devon District Hospital in Barnstaple. Next day he was transferred to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, where he underwent surgery and was discharged the following day. A hospital spokesperson said Perkins would require follow-up treatment, including physiotherapy.

SPECIES: The incident involved a female blue shark, *Prionace glauca*, five feet in length and weighing 80 pounds. “The shark was fighting-fit and still hungry for more when my pals put it back into the water,” said Perkins.

SOURCES: The Herald, September 2, 2008,
<http://www.thisisplymouth.co.uk/news/Fisherman-injured-attack-blue-shark/article-301125-detail/article.html>

Western Morning News, September 3, 2008,
<http://www.thisiswesternmorningnews.co.uk/news/won-t-stop-fishing-says-shark-bite-survivor/article-304087-detail/article.html>

NOTE: This was a provoked incident; it involved a hooked shark.

