

ACTIVITY: Kayaking

CASE: GSAF 2008.12.20

DATE: Saturday December 20, 2008

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

38.24°N, 122.96°W

NAME Tony Johnson

DESCRIPTION: The kayaker is a male from Sacramento. He is 5'9" tall, weighs 175 pounds, and he was wearing a red dry top.

KAYAK: The kayak had a white hull and he was using a Greenland black carbon paddle.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 14h53, Santa Rosa recorded mostly cloudy skies and 10-mile visibility. The air temperature was 50°F, dew point 30.9°F, humidity 48%, sea level pressure 30.30 inches, and wind direction was SSW at 3.5 mph.

MOON PHASE: Last Quarter, December 19, 2008

TIME: 15h00

NARRATIVE: “Lucy, Anders, Cristina, Bill, Gordon, Jonathan and myself were returning from a beautiful day of paddling. We were all gathered just south of Tamales Head in front of Dillon's beach. The group was deciding on surfing options when I asked Lucy if she wouldn't mind if I went in, I was concerned for Lyn being alone several hours waiting for me while I paddled.”

“While going in I remember trying to make a conscious effort to use proper torso rotation and form while using my Greenland paddle. While half way through my right stroke a Great White — with a girth larger than the width of my 22 inch kayak — hit my paddle from behind with such force that slammed me forward to the front of my deck.”

“Feeling the turbulence on my boat I sat up in shock at the speed, power and size of this creature, unable to move. (I wish there was some way I could relate or explain to you how fast this creature is in water.)”

“I was facing the beach with my paddle out of the water, holding it in preparation for a brace, saying to myself ‘stay frosty’ scanning the water, scared shitless. I was afraid to move and started yelling to my group who was behind me ‘Great White, Great White’. I did this for



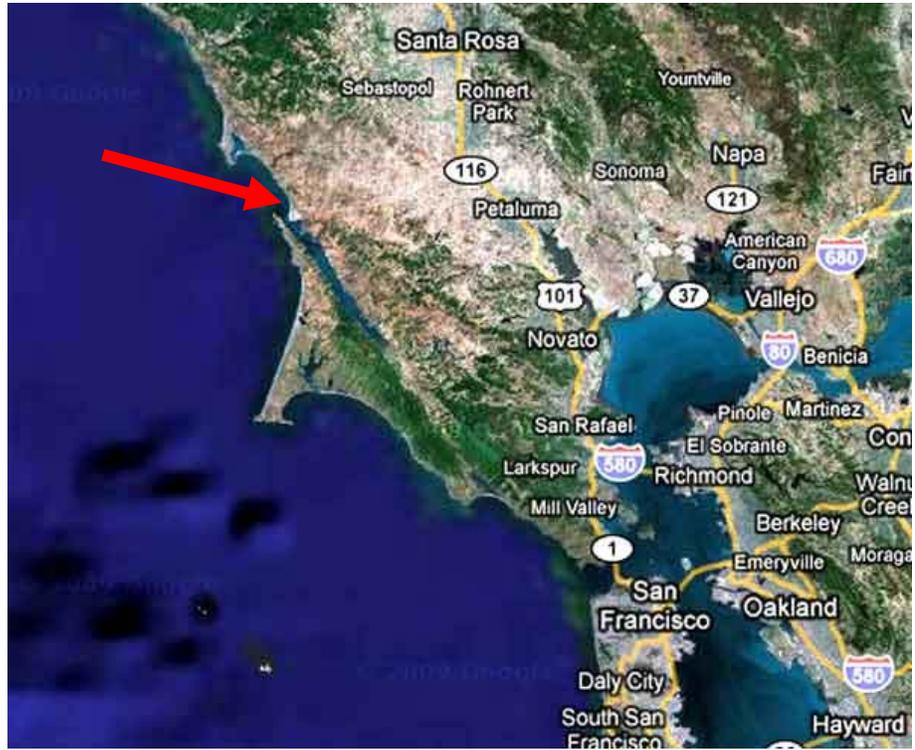
several seconds before I decided to turn the boat around and head for the group. I did not edge my boat, I stayed very still and slowly extended my paddle to turn towards the group. While turning the boat I looked to my right and there was the Great White approximately 15 to 20 feet away from me with its dorsal fin out of the water. Its dorsal fin was large and shredded at the tip.”

“The Great White was moving slowly, turning with my boat, this really caused me to panic and I paddled as fast as I could to the group yelling ‘Great White’ many times until someone heard me. We all gathered together and paddled in to Dillon's Beach. While on the beach I examined the paddle and there were no bite marks, which I can't explain.”

INJURY: The kayaker was not injured by the shark.

SPECIES: White shark

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Ralph Collier



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