

ACTIVITY: Swimming, taking photos

CASE: [GSAF 2009.08.25](#)

DATE: Tuesday August 25, 2009

LOCATION: The incident took place at Terramar Beach, Carlsbad, San Diego County, California, USA.

NAME: Bethany Edmund

DESCRIPTION: She is a 22-year-old female from Encinitas. She is 5'2", weighs 123 pounds, is tanned and was wearing a blue bikini bottom and black swimsuit top. She is a certified diver, surfer, spearfisher, and performs these activities at this beach regularly. She is also a nursing student and part-time swimsuit model.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: It was a clear and sunny day. The air temperature was 80 F. At 16h53, Carlsbad recorded clear skies and visibility of 10 miles. The air temperature was 77° F, dew point 55°F, humidity 47%, sea level pressure 29.91 inches, and wind direction was West at 9.2 mph.

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, August 27, 2009

SEA CONDITIONS: The water temperature was about 77F and underwater visibility was 5 to 10 feet.

ENVIRONMENT: The incident took place over a reef. There were kelp patties about 1/2 mile from shore and the incident took place about 500 feet from them.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 250-300 feet

DEPTH OF WATER: 8-10 feet

TIME: 4:30 pm [16h30]



Bethany Edmund

NARRATIVE: Bethany had been in the water about 10 minutes and was swimming in the surfline, taking photos with a taking photographs with a new Intova 6.0 mega pixel underwater camera that she had bought earlier in the day. When a large (approximately 14 inches) sea bass jumped in front of her, she tried to snap a picture with her camera. Two other swimmers were next to her, and saw the same fish. Approximately one minute afterwards, she felt a sharp pain on her right foot. Thinking she kicked reef, she continued photographing. Approximately 30 seconds later she felt the same sharp pain, and began to swim away from the area, thinking she was over reef and was kicking a sharp portion of it. About 50 to 60 seconds later, as she was swimming from the area, she was hit on the upper right thigh and propelled about a foot out of the water. This is when she realized what might be happening, and she began to body surf to shore. The first wave she caught she felt something pulling her back and down under water (left calf area). She thought it was the two swimmers near her, however when she surfaced they were about 10 feet from her. She ignored what just happened, and caught another wave, and felt the same sharp pain (left calf) and was dragged under water and shaken for four to five seconds. She accidentally kicked the animal and it released her. She then proceeded to stand up and run out of the water. When exiting the water there was no obvious blood, just swollen areas where she

had been hit.

INJURY: Puncture wounds to left foot and calf.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: The next day she reported the incident to James Bilz (Supervisor II lifeguard) for Carlsbad state beach. That day she also contacted Encinitas lifeguards (Captain Larry Giles and Paul Chapman Lieutenant) who photographed her injury with rulers and said they would be contacting different places to determine what size and species of shark was involved

SPECIES: Based on the injuries to the foot and calf, the accident involved a juvenile white shark between five and six feet in length.

SOURCES: Surflife, August 31, 2009,
http://www.surflife.com/surf-news/alert/shark-attack-terramar-beach-carlsbad_30126/
Pete Thomas, Los Angeles Times, August 31, 2009,
<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/outposts/2009/08/possible-great-white-shark-attack-off-carlsbad-no-cause-for-alarm.html>
NBC, September 3, 2009,
<http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local-beat/Swimsuit-Model-Describes-Great-White-Attack-56963422.html>

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