

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2011.06.24

DATE: June 24, 2011

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean at 'Four Doors' at San Onofre State Beach, San Diego County, California, USA.



NAME: Doug Green

DESCRIPTION: Green, an army officer, is 73" tall and weighs 170 lbs. He was wearing a black full wetsuit.

SURFBOARD: A 10-foot longboard

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sky was overcast. The air temperature was estimated to be in the mid-60°s, and there was a mild 10 mph breeze.

MOON PHASE: Last Quarter, 38% of the Moon was illuminated

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea was choppy with wave about five feet. Water temperature was estimated to be in the mid-60°s

ENVIRONMENT: San Onofre State Beach is a 3,000-acre state park. The beach is 3 miles (5 km) south of the city of San Clemente on Interstate 5 at Basilone Road. With over 2.5 million visitors per year, it is one of the five most-visited state parks in California, hosting swimmers, campers, kayakers, birders, fishermen, off-duty Marines, bicyclists, sunbathers, surfers, and the sacred Native American site of Panhe.

The incident took place over a rocky bottom with sparse kelp.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 300 metres

DEPTH OF WATER: 10 to 15 feet

TIME: 13h30

NARRATIVE: Doug Green had been on the water for 90 minutes. He describes the incident below:

"While resting between waves sitting upright on my surfboard, a shark suddenly jumped onto and across my surfboard. At first I thought it must be a dolphin, but noticed gill slits in the water and a broad dorsal fin near my face. The shark thrashed to free itself and cleared my board. The board is 23 inches wide and the front of the shark and the rear of the shark were off the board and in the water at least one foot on each side. The entire episode lasted approximately 3 – 4 seconds. I did not see the shark again. The shark was approximately 5 feet in length, dark gray/black upper and light gray/white lower. There were at least 4 surfers within 10 meters, and at least 2 facing me when it happened. One commented it looked like a juvenile Great White. I reported it to the lifeguard at the station labeled 'Old Mans' who listened politely but made no report to my knowledge."

INJURY: The surfer was not injured by the shark.

SPECIES: A juvenile white shark about five feet in length.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Ralph Collier

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