



ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2013.08.17](#)

DATE: Saturday August 17, 2013

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean near the jetty at Pillar Point, Half Moon Bay, San Mateo County, California, USA.

NAME: Wendi Zuccaro

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 12h35, Half Moon Bay recorded clear skies and seven-mile visibility. The air temperature was 62.6°F, dew point 57.2°F, humidity 82%, sea level pressure 30.02 inches (falling) and there was no wind.

MOON PHASE: Waxing Gibbous, 85% of the Moon was illuminated. Full Moon, August 20, 2013.

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea was calm and water temperature was about 52° or 54°F.

ENVIRONMENT: Sandy ocean floor. "The sea was unusually active with literally hundreds, maybe 200 to 300 seabirds on top of the water instead of the normal 30 to 50," said Zuccaro. "I noticed 15 to 20 Harbor Seals (white with grey spots) splashing all around instead of the regular 2 to 4. As Anne and I walked out into the water we noticed that we could see the ocean floor and the crabs walking around. As we continued out, we were about 48 inches deep when I noticed babies (shark pups) about 18 to 32 inches long,

swimming around our legs, but they didn't seem interested in us and I didn't want to scare her so I didn't tell her until way after our session. That was about 11:00 AM."

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 150 yards

DEPTH OF WATER: Four to five feet

TIME: 12h40

NARRATIVE: Wendi Zuccaro and Anne, a friend from Germany, had been in the water almost two hours. "We caught a few small waves but it was pretty flat at 12:40 PM. We were both lying flat on our boards with no limbs hanging off and we were just talking and waiting for a wave. All of a sudden, something hit the bottom of my board two feet from the fins and tossed me and the board into the air about two to three feet.

"I held onto the board and recovered. Anne asked what happened and since she doesn't know much about sharks, she has a fear of them so I said it was probably a seal or sea lion even though I knew it wasn't.

"At 1:00 PM, Anne said, 'Look, I think there's a whale right behind us close to the surface you can see its shadow.' I turned my head thinking that it wasn't a whale because we were not that far out. What I saw was a White Shark with its dorsal barely under the water surface. It just coasted by (moving away from the rock wall so maybe its belly was full?) It passed right behind us just under a foot away. It never slowed, stopped or even circled. It was just cruising by. I kept watching it and since it wasn't interested in us, I just watched this amazing creature pass and appreciated what it could do had it been hungry. After that, I told Anne that maybe we should go in and check out the conditions from the beach. Since she was getting cold, she agreed."

INJURY: No injury

DAMAGE TO SURFBOARD: "I checked the bottom of my board after and saw the bite marks on it and took two pictures on my cell phone," reported Zaccaro.

SPECIES: The shark that struck the surfboard is described as "dark gray and roughly 10 to 12 feet long with a girthy body." It may be the same white shark observed 20 minutes later.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Ralph Collier





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