



**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** GSAF 2013.10.06

**DATE:** Sunday October 6, 2013

**LOCATION:** The incident took place at Bunkers, a popular surf spot on the Samoa Peninsula in Humboldt Bay, Eureka, Humboldt County, California, USA.

**NAME:** Jay Scrivner

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 45-year-old male, a teacher at the College of the Redwoods.

**BOARD:** Scrivner said he thinks he was spared from more damage by his old surf board, which is thicker than many modern boards.



### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** At 08h53, Arcata recorded clear skies and 10-mile visibility. The air temperature was 60.1°F, dew point 39°F, humidity 46%, sea level pressure 30.11 inches, and wind direction was ESE at 3.5 mph.

**MOON PHASE:** Waxing Crescent, 4% of the Moon was illuminated. New Moon, October 3, 2013.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The swell was 4 – 5 feet at 15 seconds coming from the WNW about five minutes between sets with water visibility greater than 10 feet over a sandy ocean bottom

**ENVIRONMENT:** A single pinniped was observed about one hour prior to the attack frequently sticking its head out of the water looking at the surfers.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 300 yards  
**DISTANCE FROM NORTH JETTY:** 300 yards  
**DEPTH OF WATER:** 20 feet  
**TIME:** 08h30

**NARRATIVE:** Jay Scrivner had been surfing with several companions, including Sean Masters for about two hours. Masters reported, “I was about 30 feet away from Jay who was lying on his board. There were no waves on the horizon, in the middle of the regular lulls. I was looking back towards the beach getting myself lined up and as I turned back to paddle up to Jay the shark was out of the water. The first thing I remember is this beautiful looking fish about one to two feet above the surface, parallel to the water and twisting like it was trying to turn back to Jay. Its body was like the shape of a banana, I never saw its head. Immediately I turned to the beach and the knee-boarder, then quickly looked back for Jay. In this split second the shark was back in the water. It was at this point I saw Jay getting back on his board. I yelled at him to paddle and let's go the whole way to the beach. I wasn't even sure if he was bit at this point, but I was glad he was paddling in fast. It took a couple of minutes to paddle in, no sets. Finally 50 yards from shore a small wave took us in. “

**INJURY:** The patient was bitten on his left thigh. No artery was severed and there was no damage to any tendons but there was some muscle tissue damage.



*Toothmarks on Scrivner's surfboard*

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** “Luckily a fellow surfer, Brock, saw the attack from the jetty and got everybody there out of the water.” said Masters. “They were running up the beach to meet us as we got to shore. We carried Jay to dry sand and wrapped towels around the bite wounds on his left thigh. Due to the federal government shutdown the gate to the beach was closed and locked so nobody had their truck on the beach. Luckily someone had a cell phone but the rescue took way too long. It was about 20 – 25 minutes from the attack until the fire department got to the beach. If we would have been able to drive our trucks out he would have already been at the hospital.” The ambulance transported to St. Joseph Hospital in Eureka where his injury was repaired with 30 sutures. He was expected to make a full recovery.

**SPECIES:** The incident involved a white shark, 10 to 12 feet in length.

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Ralph Collier



*Toothmarks on Scriver's surfboard*





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