



Photo: Rick Loomis

The pier in Manhattan Beach is closed off after a swimmer was bitten by a shark. Lifeguards patrolled the beach on foot reminding beachgoers to stay out of the water, while a boat patrolled close to shore.

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: [GSAF 2014.07.05.b](#)

DATE: Saturday July 5, 2014

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean at Manhattan Beach, Los Angeles County, California, USA.

NAME: Steve Robles

DESCRIPTION: He is a 40-year-old male.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 09h53, the morning haze had lifted, there were scattered clouds and visibility was seven miles. The air temperature was 77°F , dew point 64°F, humidity 64%, sea level pressure 30.03 inches and wind direction was West at 9.2 mph.

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, 53% of the moon was illuminated.

ENVIRONMENT: Great white sharks have pupping grounds in this area, so juveniles frequent coastal waters that are rich in their favorite fish.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 300 yards

TIME: 09h30

NARRATIVE: The shark took the (anchovies-and-sardines) bait on the hook a fisherman

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had thrown into the water from the edge of the Manhattan Beach Pier, and had been hooked for about 45 minutes. Meanwhile, Steve Robles was swimming from the Hermosa Beach to the Manhattan Beach pier with a dozen fellow members of the SCAQ (Southern California Aquatics) swim team when he crossed the path of the shark.

"[The shark] was agitated and was probably biting everything in his way and then the [Mr. Robles] swam right into the shark's line," said Capt. Tracy Lizotte, a Los Angeles County lifeguard at the beach.

The fisherman who had snagged the shark cut the line and a nearby paddle-boarder helped the injured swimmer onto his board. Los Angeles County lifeguards then helped pushed the victim ashore, where paramedics met and began treating him.

A helicopter flight crew spotted the shark approximately 200 yards north of the pier, directing a lifeguard boat and a Redondo Beach Harbor Patrol boat to the predator. A paddle boarder was directed away from the shark by the boat crews. After about 30 minutes, the boats were able to coax the shark out to deeper water and away from the pier,.

INJURY: The man sustained lacerations and puncture wounds on the right side of his torso below the rib cage and his right hand (defense wounds).

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: He was transported to Harbor UCLA Medical Center in stable condition. His injuries were not life-threatening. He was released from the hospital the next day.

SPECIES: The incident involved a seven-foot juvenile white shark, a federally protected species.

NOTE: This is a provoked incident; it was not an attack. The fisherman was aware of swimmers in the area, knew he had hooked a shark, and should have cut the line. The shark was simply attempting to dislodge the hook when it crossed paths with the man. This is another of many incidents in which a person swimming near a fishing pier is injured by a shark.



Steve Robles