

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2015.06.24.a

DATE: Wednesday June 24, 2015

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Southern Ocean off Ocean Beach in Denmark, Western Australia, Australia.

Longitude: 117.3299153

Latitude: -35.02625783

NAME: Lily Kumpe

DESCRIPTION: A 37-year-old female from the United States. She is 5'2", weighs 105 lbs, and was wearing a full length 3mm black wetsuit with neon yellow arms from the elbow down, a black leash on her ankle and a silver wedding band on her hand. She had no injuries before the incident nor was she menstruating.

SURFBOARD: A 5'8" Bings Surfboards twin-fin yellow and white board with light brown fins.



Lily Kumpe and her surfboard. The photograph shows the bite on the surfboard and the abrasions on her face sustained during the incident

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: It was a sunny, winter day with light winds. The air temperature was 60°F.

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, June 25, 2015

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea was blue with surf, and the sea surface temperature was 60°F, estimated. Underwater visibility was good and no channel was present.

ENVIRONMENT: A pod of dolphins was observed off shore, but no unusual bird or fish activity was noted. The incident took place off a beach with a rocky headland, about 100 yards

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from the inlet which was closed when the attack occurred.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 30 to 40 metres

DISTANCE FROM ROCKS: 20 metres

DEPTH OF WATER: Eight feet, but incident took place on the surface.

TIME: 09h30

NARRATIVE: Three people were in the water when the incident took place, a swimmer and two surfers. Lily Kumpe had been in the water 30 minutes. Her She was lying on her surfboard, paddling seaward. She noted dolphins in the area minutes earlier, but had since turned her attention toward catching a wave. While paddling further out, there was a sudden, powerful impact to the right side of her board, and she was flung into the water. (Only later did she learn the shark took a bite out of her board where her arm had just been. Her right arm was raised, mid-paddle, when the shark hit.) After being flung into the water, she began swimming back to her board. "I was terrified the shark might strike again and also uncertain of the extent of my injuries," she said. As she reached for her board Mike Taylor, her partner who was about nine metres away on a nine-foot surfboard, paddled to her. She climbed onto his board, and together they paddled back to shore. Her board was still attached at her ankle. She thought noise created by her surfboard may have attracted the shark.



INJURY: Minor injuries. She sustained bruises down the length of both shins as well as to her face, and chest, abrasions to both feet and chin, and a cut on her right hand.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: The patient was treated on the beach by a doctor and nurse who happened to be on the shore. Ambulance officers were called to the scene just before 09h50. She was transported by ambulance to Denmark Public Hospital, arriving 40 minutes after the incident. At the hospital her injuries were treated and she was discharged later in the day.

SPECIES: Lily Kumpe never had an opportunity to get a good look at the shark. "I only glimpsed something that seemed huge. My best description is that the sea floor seemed to suddenly rise and smack into me." she said. "Only my partner and a swimmer are confident they saw it. The swimmer also said he saw the shark swim shoreward." Dr. Rory McAuley of the Dept of Fisheries, who has been involved in more than 20 bite incidents through forensic examination, inspected the board: "I have examined Ms Kumpe's board and concluded that the board was bitten by a shark, almost certainly a white shark. I also believe that Ms. Kumpe's injuries were caused by abrasion from the shark's skin, rather than the board." The shark made a single bite to the board. A strategy often utilized by a white shark when hunting prey on the surface consists charging at speed from beneath the prey and striking it with great force, sometimes flinging it well above the surface. At the very least, the prey is disoriented and momentarily unable to take evasive action. Since the

surfer was promptly rescued it is not known if the shark considered the surfer or her board as prey. It is also possible that the shark regarded the surfboard as an intruder and was sending a message to leave the area. If that was its intent, it succeeded.

SOURCES: Lily Kumpe and Rory McAuley, Ph.D. (pers. comm)

NBC News

<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/shark-attack-victim-very-lucky-survive-n380791>

ABC, June 24, 2015

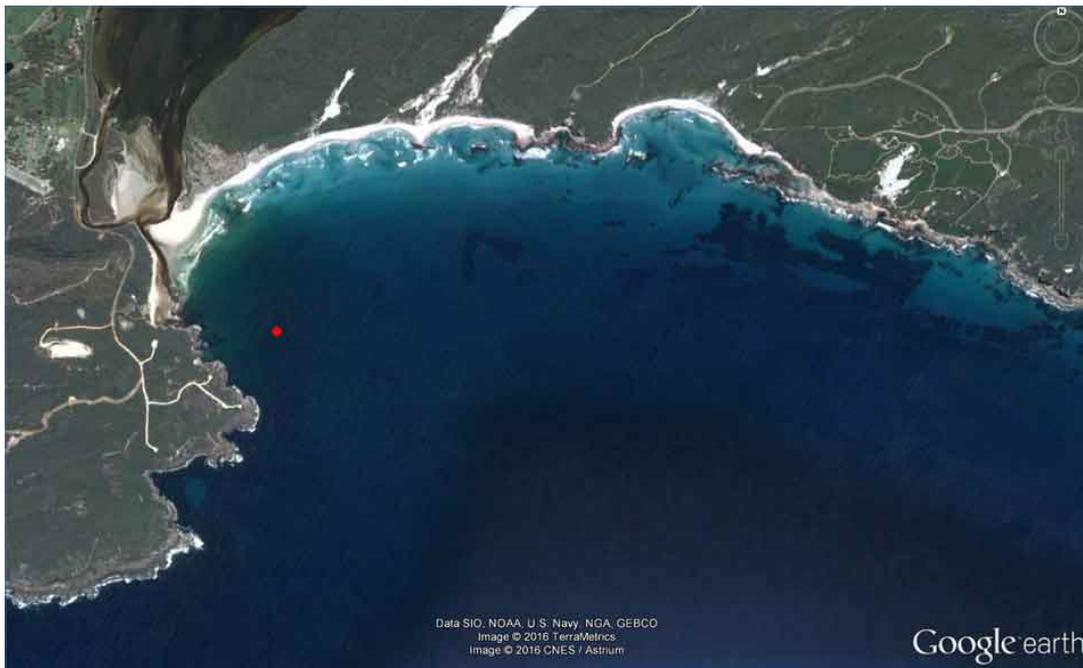
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-24/shark-attack-near-wa-town-of-denmark/656984>

The Australian, June 24, 2015,

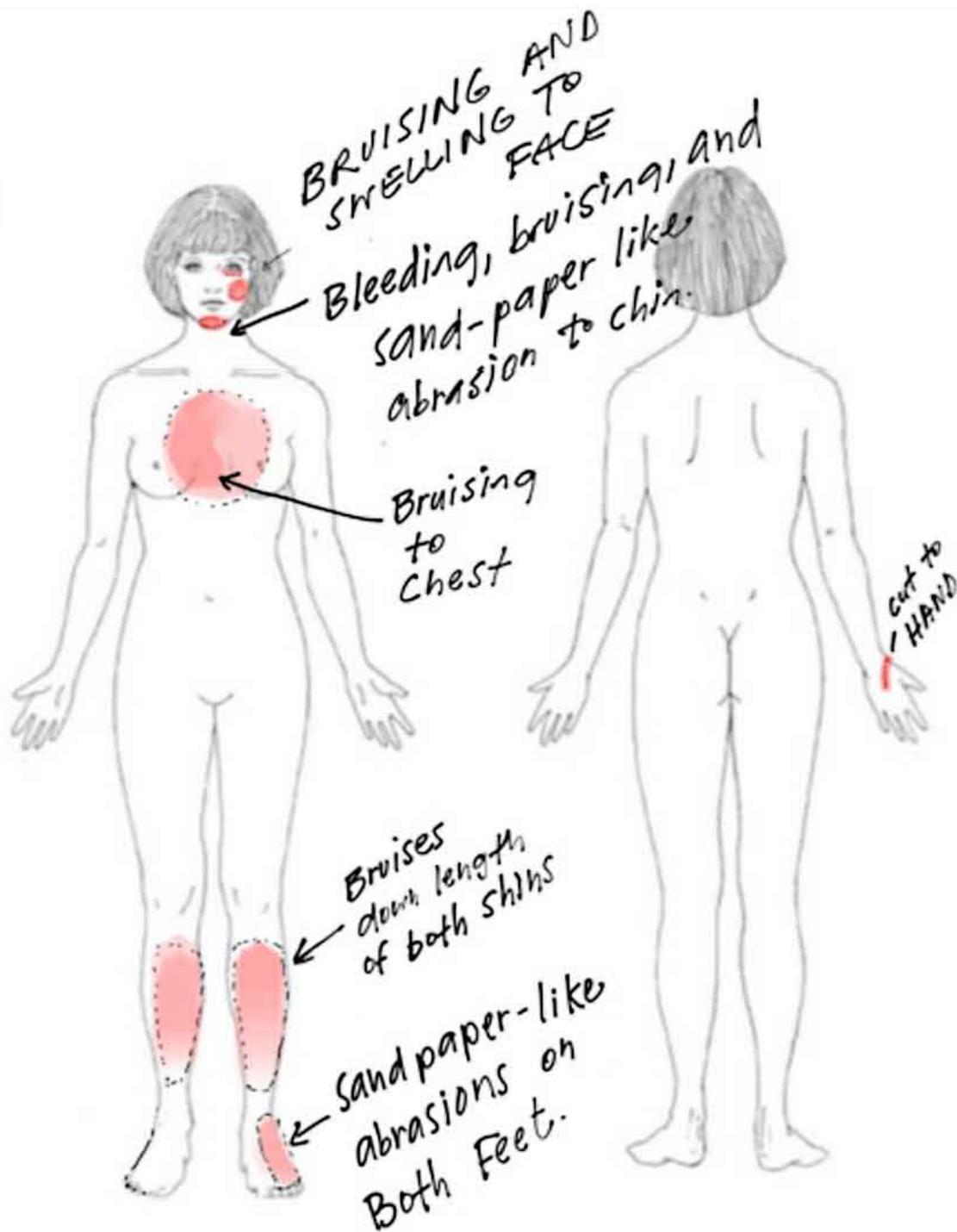
<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/surfer-toasting-lucky-escape-from-shark/story-e6frg6nf-1227413576037>



Photo: West Australian Police



The red dot shows the location of the attack



Although no tissue was lost, the patient sustained bruising and swelling to face and chin, sandpaper like abrasions on feet and chin, bruising to chest and down both legs. Blood loss was insignificant, but the abrasions on both left hand and chin were bleeding and scars remain one year later.



Image courtesy of Lily Kumpe

Toothmarks of the shark on Lily Kumpe's surfboard

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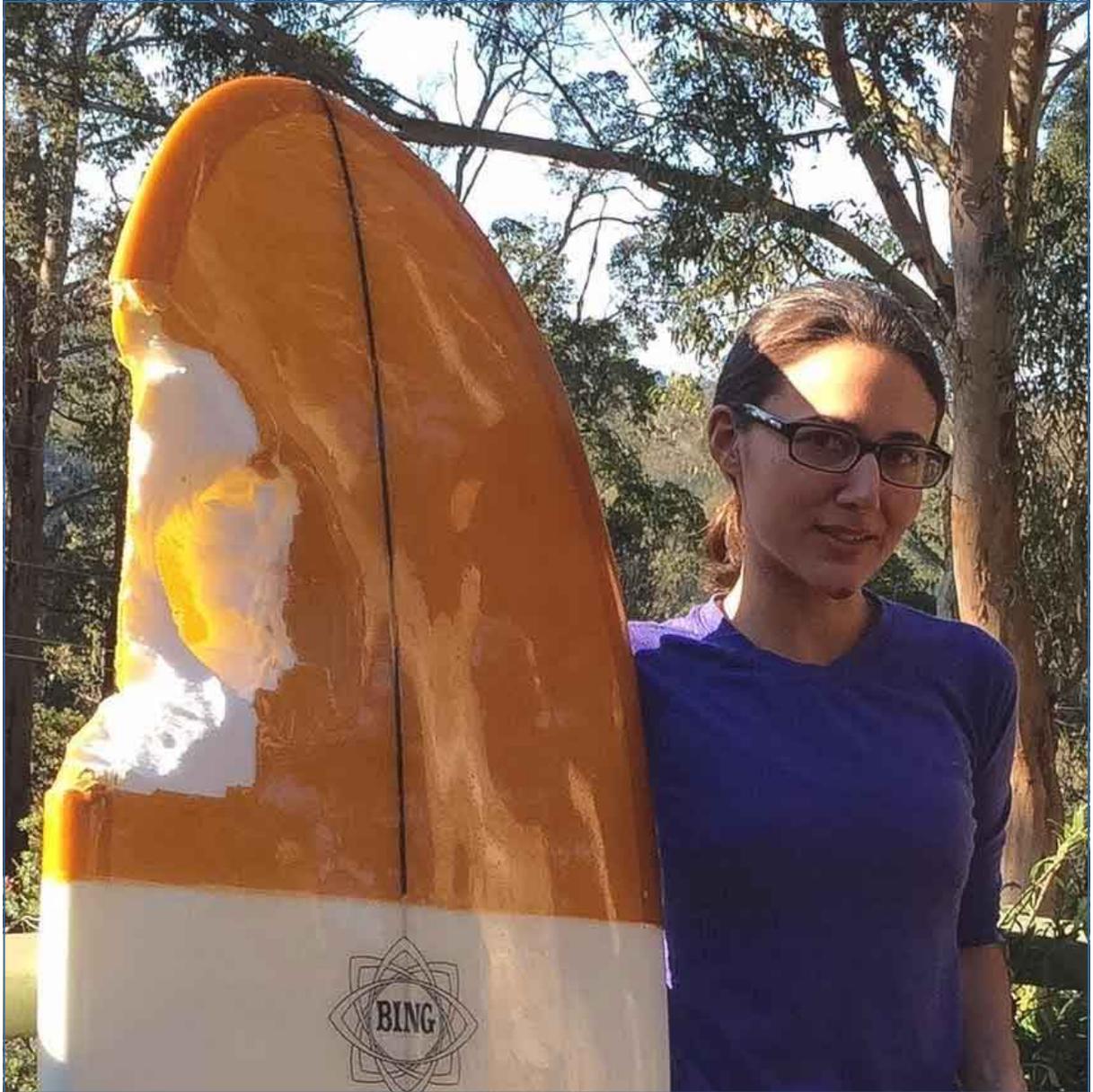


Image courtesy of Lily Kumpe