

ACTIVITY: Spearfishing

CASE: GSAF 2015.08.10

DATE: Monday, August 10, 2015

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean on the Cortes Bank, about 100 miles off the coast of San Diego, California, USA.

NAME: Richard Shafer,

DESCRIPTION: He is a 57-year-old male, and a member of the Pacifica masters swim team.

SUPPORT BOAT: Peace Dive Boat (from Ventura, California)

BACKGROUND

DISTANCE FROM BOAT

TIME: Just after 08h00

NARRATIVE: Richard Shafer dived to 15 feet, speared and fought a yellow tail. As he was swimming back to the boat with his fish he saw a sea lion swoop underneath him. Unwilling to lose his catch to the sea lion, he cradled his fish in his right arm as he swam back to the boat. "All of a sudden something slammed the fish. It happened so fast. I saw a hammerhead shark. It bit the fish and bit my hand. The crew of the boat was screaming at me to let go of the fish," Shafer said. "It hit me one time and shredded my hand." The crew threw out a line and took Schafer up onto the boat.

INJURY: Right hand bitten: He sustained six lacerations, including a cut tendon, and a knuckle and his pinkie finger were fractured.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: An EMT onboard the dive boat cut off Shafer's wetsuit and provided basic first aid. A US Coast Guard MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter crew flew to the boat, lowered a rescuer, strapped the patient to a stretcher and at 10h00 lifted him into the chopper. The patient arrived in San Diego in stable condition shortly before 11h00 and was taken to UCSD Medical Center in Hillcrest.

SPECIES: The incident involved a six to seven foot hammerhead shark.

SOURCES: Fox 5, August 13, 2015

<http://fox5sandiego.com/2015/08/13/hammerhead-shark-bites-swimmer-off-san-diego-coast/>

NBCSanDiego, August 13, 2015



<http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/San-Diego-Shark-Attack-Diver-Coast-Guard-321796332.html>

Inquisitr.com, August 13, 2015

<http://www.inquisitr.com/2333413/hammerhead-shark-attacks-diver-off-california-coast/>

Jane Northrop, San Jose Mercury News, August 18, 2015

http://www.mercurynews.com/pacifica/ci_28662868/diver-bit-by-shark

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Ralph Collier, Global Shark Accident File