



ACTIVITY: Kayak fishing

CASE: **GSAF 2015.09.05**

DATE: Saturday September 5, 2015

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean near Deer Creek Beach, between Point Mugu and Malibu, Ventura County, California, USA.

34°03'0519"N, 118°59'55.07"W

NAME: Dylan Marks

DESCRIPTION: A 29-year-old male from Santa Monica.



BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At Malibu (three miles from Deer Creek), the air temperature was 70°F with light winds from the WSW.

MOON PHASE: Last Quarter, 43% of the Moon was illuminated.

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea surface temperature was 74°F. Mean high tide at 15h55, SSW

ENVIRONMENT: Juvenile white sharks are abundant in the area in summer months. This year, however, there may be more of them around because of unusually warm water off the West Coast for the past couple of years. The past two winters, however, the sharks remained in the area and experts suspect El Niño may be affecting behavior. Female white sharks seem to be giving birth earlier than normal, as early as February this year. Students from CSU Long Beach tagged three of the pups with pen-sized transmitters and placed receivers in spots along the coast. The Star reported in late July that a transmitter near the Ventura Harbor entrance had recorded the three sharks in recent



Huggins loading their kayaks into vehicle after the incident.

NBC 4 Los Angeles

months.

According to Lidia Barillas, spokeswoman for the county lifeguards, there have been several sightings of hammerhead sharks near Point Dume and off Catalina Island during the past few weeks.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: One to two miles

TIME: 14h40

NARRATIVE: Dylan Marks and Kyle Hudgins were fishing for yellowtail about when they noticed three hammerhead circling their kayaks. "We saw this fin and then it dove," Hudgins said. Marks said he ended hooking one of the sharks. As he began reeling in the shark to remove the hook, he swung his legs over the kayak into the path of a shark. Huggins reported, "Then he (Marks) said, 'Oh, dude. I just got bit!'" After biting or slashing Marks' foot, the shark swam away. Hudgins called 911. Boaters and Coast Guard rescuers brought them to shore. (Or, the injured kayaker flagged down a fishing boat that was nearby and got onboard, where he was able to control the bleeding. Lifeguards paddled to the boat and accompanied the kayaker back to shore.)

In an ABC interview which aired on September 6, 2015, Marks said he would not hunt sharks anymore and would "never use" the word "attack" to describe what happened to him.

INJURY: Laceration to dorsum of right foot. According to Ventura County Fire Department the injury was not serious.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Lifeguards helped bring the patient to shore about 15h10. The patient was treated on the scene before being airlifted to Los Robles Hospital & Medical Center in Thousand Oaks at about 15h22.

SPECIES: A hammerhead shark 10 feet in length

SOURCES: Ventura County Star, September 5, 2015

http://www.vcstar.com/news/local-news/camarillo/kayaker-bitten-by-shark-of-ventura-county-coast_44502490

CBS Los Angeles, September 5, 2015

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2015/09/05/reports-kayaker-bit-by-shark-just-south-of-point-mugu/>

SCPR.org, September 5, 2015

<http://www.scpr.org/news/2015/09/05/54241/hammerhead-shark-attacks-swimmer-near-zuma-beach/>

The Tribune, September 5, 2015

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2015/09/05/3793824/shark-bites-top-of-kayakers-foot.html>

NBC 4 Los Angeles, September 5, 2015

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Swimmer-Bitten-by-Hammerhead-Shark-North-of-Zuma-Beach-324798031.html>



Instagram

Smooth hammerhead shark photographed by Marks & Huggins a week before this incident

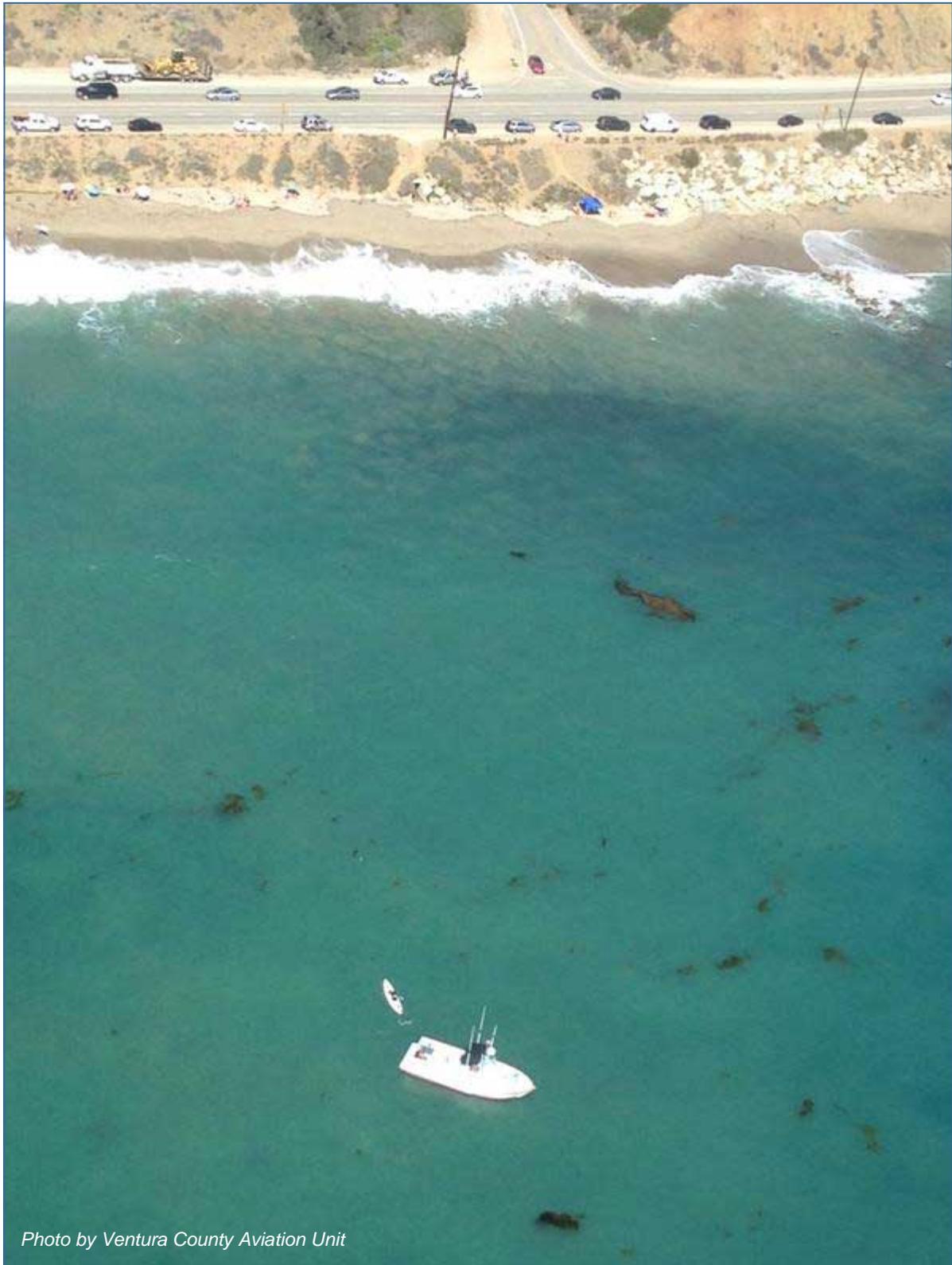


Photo by Ventura County Aviation Unit

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