

ACTIVITY: Free diving / Spearfishing

CASE: **GSAF 1985.09.28**

DATE: Saturday September 28, 1985

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean off Elephant Rock near Tomales Point, Marin County, California, USA.

38°10.9'N, 122°57.9'W

NAME: Rolf Ridge

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 39% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated. New Moon, May 20, 1985.

SEA CONDITIONS: Underwater visibility was five metres.

DEPTH OF WATER: Five fathoms

NARRATIVE: While descending toward the bottom, the diver felt a bump to his left hip and, turning quickly, saw the white shark pass by him very closely. He jabbed his speargun at the shark's mouth, then turned and headed for the beach. The shark did not return.

INJURY: It is not known if the diver sustained any injury.

SPECIES: The incident was reported to involve a white shark, four to five metres in length.

SOURCES: John McCosker and Robert N. Lea (1996), White Shark Attacks in the Eastern Pacific Ocean: An Update and Analysis. In Great White Sharks: The Biology of *Carcharodon carcharias*. A Peter Klimley and David Ainley (editors). Academic Press, San Diego, pp. 419-434

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Ralph Collier

