

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 1989.04.12

DATE: Wednesday April 12, 1989

LOCATION: The incident took place in Pacific Ocean at Pacific Beach near Aberdeen in western Washington, USA.

47° 12.7'N, 124° 12.6'W

NAME: Robert Harms

SURFBOARD: Purple surfboard

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 45% of the Moon was illuminated.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 metres

TIME: 10h45

NARRATIVE: McCosker and Lea reported that Robert Harms, while lying prone on his board at 1045 hrs, felt a sharp pain in his left arm. The surfer resisted a slight tug on his arm, instinctively pulling it away from whatever had grabbed it. A large swirl next to his surfboard drew Harms' attention to a large gray fish. He gathered himself back onto his board and headed for shore.

INJURY: Multiple punctures and lacerations extending from his thumb to mid-forearm, a distance of about 25 centimetres.

FIRST AID: Upon reaching the beach, Harms removed his wetsuit. A companion assisted him in applying antiseptic cleanser and adhesive bandaging to his wounds. Although somewhat shaken and withdrawn, Harms was not taken to a medical facility.

SPECIES: This was the first authenticated incident involving a white shark attack in the state of Washington during the Twentieth Century

SOURCES: John McCosker & Robert N. Lea

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Ralph Collier

