

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 1993.01.02

DATE: Saturday January 2, 1993

LOCATION: The incident took place the Pacific Ocean at off Bastendorff Beach, at Coos Bay in southwestern Oregon, USA.

48°20.8'N; 124°20.9'W

NAME: William Weaver

DESCRIPTION: He is a 29-year-old male, 6' tall and weighs 180 pounds. He was wearing a 5mm black wetsuit with orange kneepads, hood, booties and black gloves.

SURFBOARD: The surfer was using a two-metre white Thruster with black rails.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sky was overcast, a light rain was falling, and there was a five-knot breeze from the south. The air temperature was 11°C.

MOON PHASE: Waxing Gibbous, 63% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated. Full Moon on January 8, 1993.

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea surface was "very choppy" with occasional swells of two to three metres. The water temperature was 10°C and underwater visibility was one to two metres.

ENVIRONMENT: The incident took place over a sandy bottom, about 20' or 30' from a channel, and there was a drop-off to deeper water some 200 to 300 metres from the surfer's location. No kelp was present. As the surfer was paddling in one harbor seal was seen heading towards the beach.

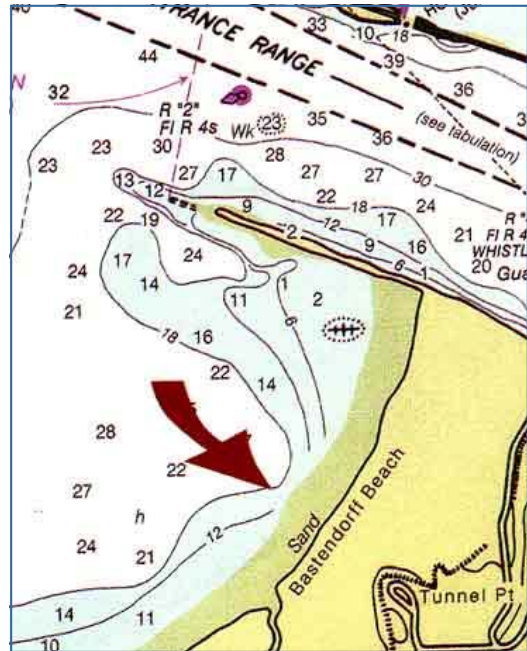
DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 metres

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: One to two fathoms

TIME: 16h00 — 16h30

NARRATIVE: William Weaver had been surfing for 30 minutes. He was surfing with a friend, Dale Inskeep (who would be attacked on 5 November 1998). The two men had paddled out to the edge of a sandbar to avoid getting caught inside "on an eight-foot set". Following 20 minutes of negotiating and surfing the oncoming waves, the two surfers were side by site, sitting upright on their boards, waiting for a "good wave". Weaver had turned to say something to Inskeep when suddenly there was a hard jolt to the front of his board. He turned to see a white shark rising out of the water as it grabbed his board and began pushing him forcefully backwards through the water.

"The first strike was powerful, but controlled, slow, as if I was in the path of a surfacing submarine," said Weaver. "I moved toward the rear of my board as the shark continued to open and close its jaws on my board. As my hands slid back toward the tail of the board, the shark rose up under my board until I was at an angle of 20 degrees or more. It was like being on top of a bucking horse, although I've never been on a bucking horse. The board wobbled and rolled this way and that way. Suddenly, as quick as lightning, the shark rolled



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to the right in the boiling water and submerged from my view. I didn't panic, but simply reacted at this point by settling atop my board and paddling like a bat out of hell for the beach."

Weaver had no sooner started toward shore than the shark reappeared on the surface, five to 10 metres from the surfer's location and in a direction to intersect the board's path. "The shark did a 180-degree turn, like a big Cadillac doing a power slide, right in front of me on the surface. It was really fast. The shark's actions created a wake, which was almost three feet high. It remained stationary for a few seconds, then slowly began to submerge, then swam under my board. As it passed under me, I could clearly see its eye rotating in the socket as if it were checking me out. I did not see the shark again. My friend witnessed the entire attack and escorted me to the beach."

INJURY: The surfer was not injured by the shark.

SPECIES INVOLVED: The shark removed a section of Weaver's surfboard, providing excellent physical evidence for determining the shark's size. Interspace measurements taken of the insertion points of individual teeth were comparable to those from a white shark six metres in length.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Ralph Collier

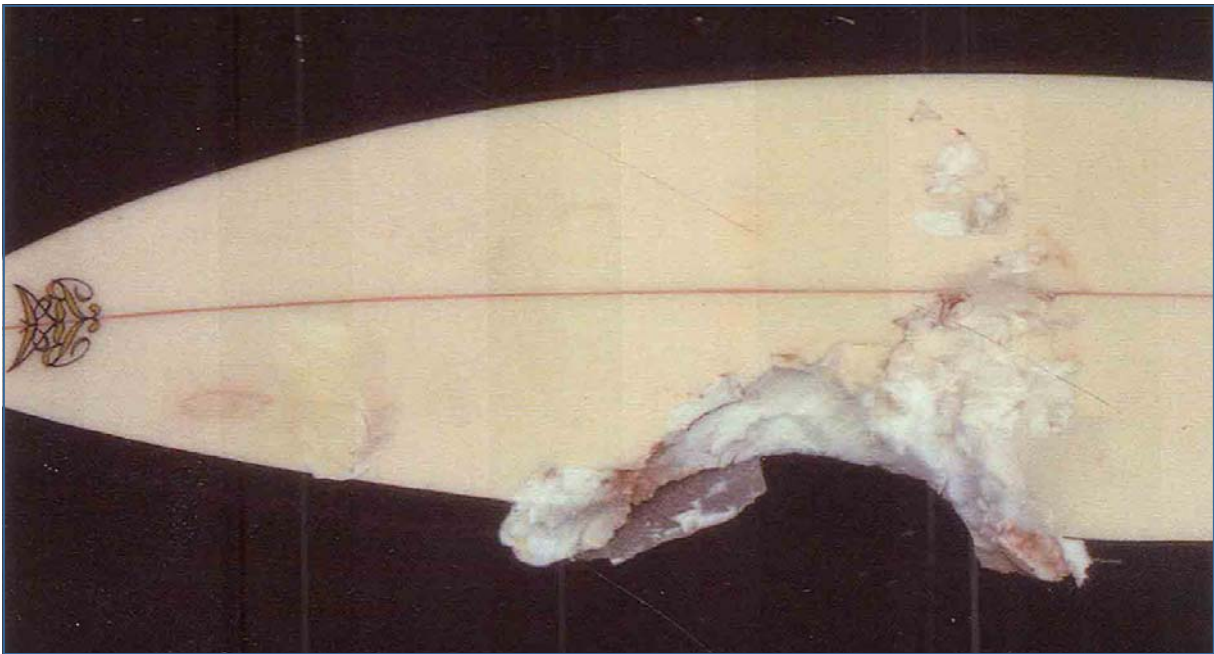


Photo by William Weaver



Photo by William Weaver



World photo by John Gunther

Bill Weaver, left, and Dale Inskip, both teachers at Eastside Elementary school; how the surfboard Weaver was using when he was attacked by a shark Saturday afternoon at Bastendorff Beach. The shark bit Weaver's board with its nose, knocking him out of the water, and then bit the board,

taking a chunk out of it. Weaver and Inskip, who were surfing together, both escaped injury the attack. Weaver and Inskip both have more than 15 years surfing experience and say they will probably return to surfing, but will use longer surfboards in the future.

Oregon coast surfer escapes attack by shark

■ A Coos Bay school teacher is unharmed but the 15-foot shark destroys his surfboard

By JOHN GRIFFITH

Correspondent, *The Oregonian*

COOS BAY — A "monster" almost ate Bill Weaver alive during the weekend.

"Think of the scariest monster you can imagine," said Weaver, 28, of Coos Bay, who was attacked by a shark Saturday while surfing. "There's nothing I could have done. I came really close to being eaten and there was nothing I could have done."

Weaver, an elementary school teacher, was not injured in the attack but his board was destroyed. He recalled the attack Sunday.

Weaver was surfing about 3:45 p.m. Saturday with a friend at Bas-tendorff Beach near Charleston when the attack occurred, the third shark attack on a surfer on the Southern Oregon coast in the last 10 months.

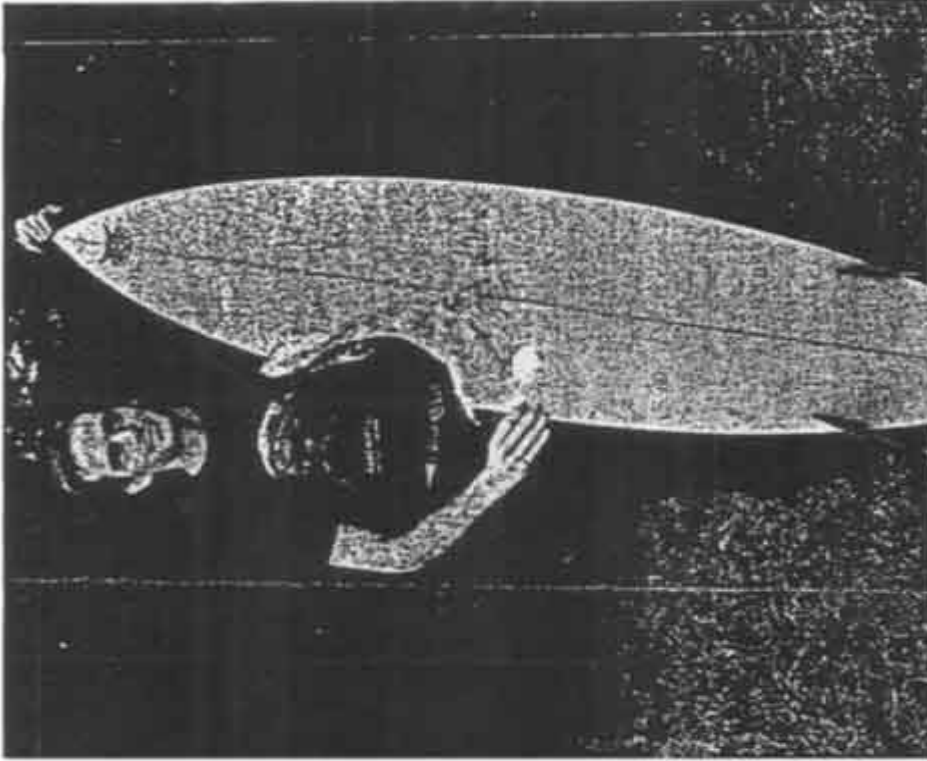
Weaver said the shark was about 15 feet long, and the attack lasted eight seconds in about 8 feet of water.

Until a marine biologist can inspect the bite mark in Weaver's board, he won't know what kind of shark attacked him.

He said it was dark gray on top and lighter-colored underneath.

Weaver and his friend, Dale In-skeep, were sitting on their boards talking when the shark attacked.

"I felt a jolt and started to rise up



JOHN GRIFFITH/for The Oregonian

Bill Weaver, a Coos Bay teacher, displays his surfboard that had a chunk bitten from it by a shark, while he was surfing during the weekend.

out of the water," Weaver said. "The second it hit, I knew what it was because the water was washing off its

sides like a submarine."

According to Weaver, the shark pushed the front of the board up,

making a dent in the bottom and then rolled suddenly.

It then bit the board where Weaver's right leg had been hanging over the side before he started sliding off.

The shark tried to pull the board away from Weaver. It then bit a second time, with Weaver hanging onto the back of the board.

"I didn't want to be in the water. I wanted to be on land, and that board was all I had," Weaver said.

The first bite went through the fiberglass covering and took a wide chunk from the board. The second slashing bite tore more fiberglass and foam from the bottom.

Apparently, the torn fiberglass somehow cut the shark, because both corners of the big bite mark have blood in them. Weaver was not cut.

The shark then made a hard turn toward shore and slowly sank away.

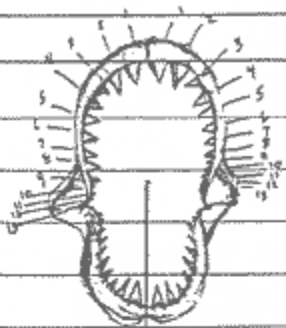
In-skeep, who was just a few feet away the whole time, said he'd never forget the crunching sound of the shark "chomping" through the surfboard. He said the shark's tail nearly hit him in the head during the attack.

Surfers Ed Ellingson and Jim Qualic, who were about 150 yards to the south, said they saw a huge splash when the shark slammed its tail into the water during the second bite attempt at Weaver's board.

Weaver and In-skeep were able to paddle to shore after the attack.

RIGHT SIDE OF SHARK

LEFT SIDE OF SHARK



Charchardon caprichius Upper Jaw

		1	1	
		2	2	
		3	3	
		4	4	
		5	5	
		6	6	
		7	7	
		8	8	
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		17	17	
		18	18	
		19	19	

DEPRESSION FROM ROSTRUM (1st ENTH)
16.4 mm x 9.0 m

76 INCHES²



DORSAL ASPECT



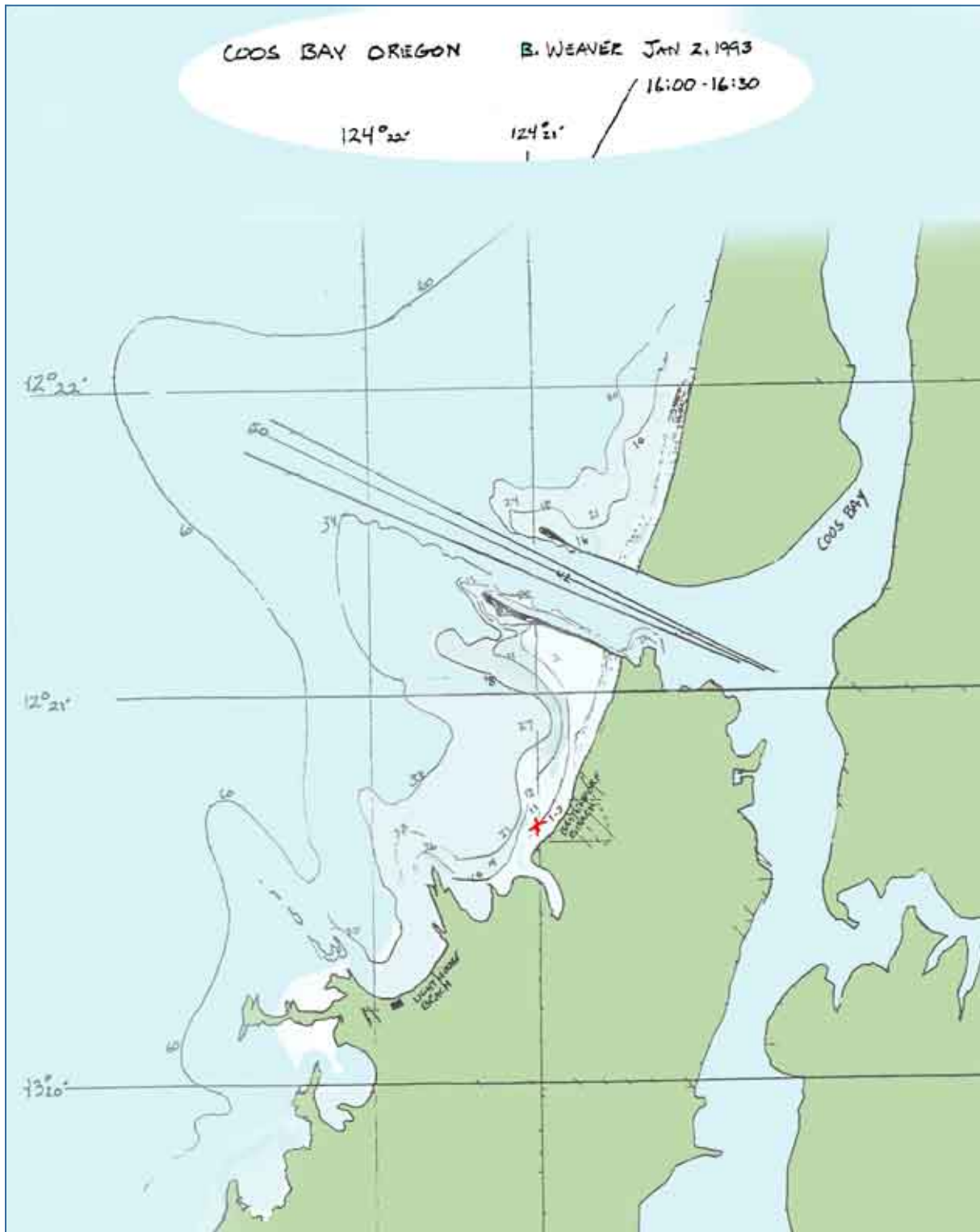
8 TOOTH JAWERS
3 - # 10
INTERMEDIATE - LAT

VENTRAL ASPECT

JAN. 2, 1993

BILL WEAVER

RESEARCHER



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