

Bronte Beach



Giancarlo72

ACTIVITY: Snorkeling

CASE: [GSAF 2001.04.08.a](#)

DATE: Sunday April 8, 2001

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Tasman Sea at Bronte Beach, New South Wales, Australia.
33°54'S, 151°12'E

NAME: Andranik Markossian

DESCRIPTION: He is a Russian immigrant.



NARRATIVE: Markossian was snorkeling when the shark nearly swam into him, turning just inches away from his mask. Unaware that it was a wobbegong shark, he reached out and touched its tail. With that, the small shark spun around and latched onto his arm. Markossian, in turn, kept a tight grip on the shark's tail, fearing that if he let go the fish would bite him again. It was a stalemate. The snorkeler decided to walk ashore with hopes that he would find a way to get the shark to release its grip on his arm.

INJURY: Punctures wounds to the right forearm.

FIRST AID: When Markossian got to shore he laid down, and his partner, Marina Godess

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alerted a lifeguard. After five minutes of trying to pry open the shark's jaws, the lifeguard cut off the shark's head.

TREATMENT: Markossian went to the hospital but the injury did not require any stitches and he was released a few hours later.

SPECIES INVOLVED: The shark was identified as a wobbegong shark. These sharks are known to be quick, aggressive, and territorial. Their teeth are small but sharp, but no bite from a wobbegong has ever resulted in a lost limb or a fatality.

NOTE: Markossian said the incident wouldn't stop him from swimming and regretted that the shark was killed. "If they could have removed it without cutting the head off, I would have preferred it ... I would say this shark was just unlucky." After lifeguards killed the shark, Markossian kept it, and served it to his family for dinner.

This is considered a provoked incident.

SOURCE: http://abcnews.go.com/sections/world/DailyNews/australia010410_shark.html