

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** GSAF 2002.11.28.a

**DATE:** Thursday November 28, 2002

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean at Salmon Creek, Bodega Bay, Sonoma County, California, USA.

38°21.28'N, 123°04.36'W

**NAME:** Michael Casey

**DESCRIPTION:** The surfer is a 48-year-old male, an assistant city attorney in Santa Rosa and the husband of former City Councilwoman Maureen Casey. He was wearing a wetsuit.



Michael Casey

### BACKGROUND

**MOON PHASE:** Last Quarter, November 27, 2002

**ENVIRONMENT:** According to a press report, "seals and sea lions live nearby at nearby Seal Rock and at the mouth of the Russian River." Dolphins were seen in the area the day before the incident.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 100 yards

**TIME:** 09h45

**NARRATIVE:** Mike Casey and Carlo Mascolo were surfing together. Mascolo was approximately 15 feet from Casey when he was bitten. The shark made a single bite, then released the surfer. Casey paddled to shore with some assistance from Mascolo.

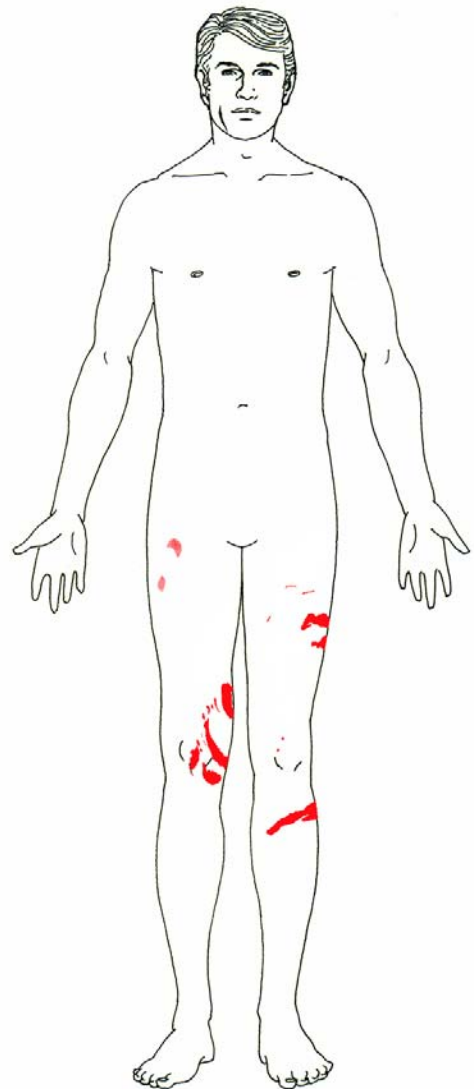
**INJURY:** Casey had a total of 19 triangular cuts and other lacerations on both legs. He sustained damage to his peroneal nerve, affecting foot mobility, which may require additional surgery.

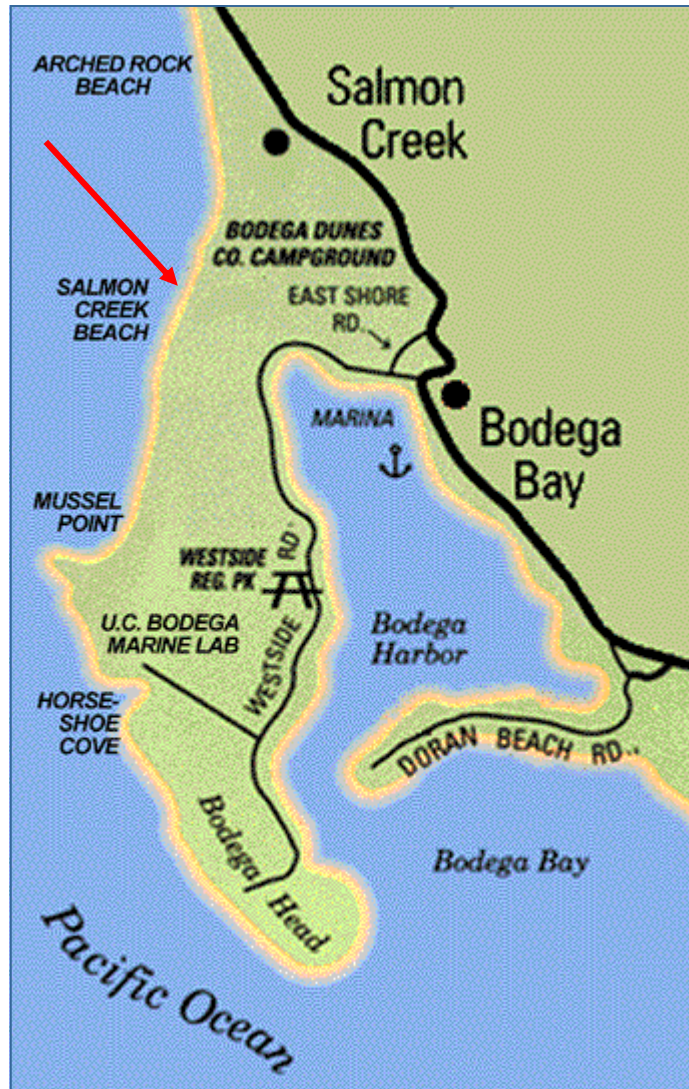
**TREATMENT:** About 70 staples were needed to close the wounds, according to trauma surgeon Brian Schmidt.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** According to witnesses, the incident involved a white shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, about 12 to 15 feet in length.

**SOURCES:** Dr. Brian Schmidt; Santa Rosa Press Democrat; [www.sfgate.com](http://www.sfgate.com); [www.surfpulse.com](http://www.surfpulse.com))

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Ralph Collier





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