

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2005.08.24.a

DATE: Wednesday August 24, 2005

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean off Scripps Institution of Oceanography at LaJolla, San Diego County, California, USA.



NAME: Tony Simmonson

DESCRIPTION: He is a 37-year-old white male from San Diego. He is 6' tall and weighs 190 pounds. He was wearing black shorts.

SURFBOARD: White surfboard.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: It was a sunny day and the air temperature was about 79°F.

MOON PHASE: Last Quarter, August 26, 2005.

SEA CONDITIONS: The water temperature was about 65°F and there were four-foot waves.

ENVIRONMENT: The ocean floor was sandy. Dolphins were observed. The also diver noted huge schools of California grunion, which are known to spawn in the area.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 30 feet

DEPTH OF WATER: Three feet

TIME: 11h00

NARRATIVE: The surfer had been in the water for about an hour. "It bit me when I stepped off my surfboard and onto the shark," said the surfer. The surfer only saw the shark when it bit him, and then it swam away.

INJURY: The surfer's lower right leg, medial aspect, near ankle was bitten.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: The surfer reports that he self-medicated the bite with rubbing alcohol and a bandage. The wound stopped bleeding after 30 minutes and the area around the bite remained swollen for several days.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Unknown, however, there is a better than 50% probability that the causal species was a juvenile white shark. The surfer described the shark as grey in color, about 2.5 to three feet in length and kind of "stocky".

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Ralph Collier