

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2005.09.04](#)

DATE: Sunday September 4, 2005

LOCATION: Fishery Bay, 30 km southwest of Port Lincoln, Eyre Peninsula, South Australia.

NAME: Jake Heron

DESCRIPTION: He is a 40-year-old male, a lobster fisherman from Port Lincoln. He was wearing a wetsuit and a surfboard leash.

SURFBOARD: A white trifin board with three black fins.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea surface temperature was about 15°C.

ENVIRONMENT: Fishery Bay is a popular surf spot but it is only 3.5 miles from Liguanea Island, a major stopping point in the middle of a migration pathway and a large aggregation area for white sharks.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 10 metres

TIME: 15h00

NARRATIVE: As Jake Heron's two children played on the rocks nearby, he surfed with long-time friend 38-year-old Craig Materna as his two children played on the rocks nearby. "No one saw the shark come up to him. It knocked him off the board. It pulled him under because the leg rope (surfboard leash) was attached to him," said Materna. "He kicked and punched the shark. I think in the gill."

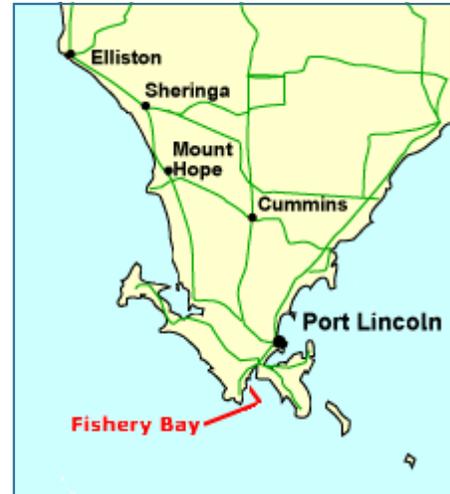
"We look up and see this surfboard just pop out of the wave and just this big, massive shark just swam off," said Jasmine Buckland, who was on the beach at Fishery Bay. "Then the shark went at him twice, at his leg, and then his arm, and the board was just bitten in half."

Materna said Heron ran up the beach, yelling and holding his leg as he struggled to his car.

INJURY: The surfer sustained lacerations to his right arm and thigh.

DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT: The shark bit through Heron's wetsuit on the right arm and thigh and bit his surfboard, splitting it in two.

FIRST AID: Wrapping towels around his wounds, Heron's friends took him to Tulka, a nearby town, where they met an ambulance, which transported Heron to Port Lincoln Hospital.



Warning sign at Fishery Bay erected on Monday September 5, 2005



Jake Heron with his surfboard

TREATMENT: Heron needed 20 stitches in his arm and 40 stitches in his thigh, and he was kept in the hospital overnight for observation.

SPECIES: 4 m [13-foot] white shark

SOURCES: <http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/shark-attacks-surfer-in-south-australia/2005/09/04/1125772404044.html>;

Adelaide Confidential, Sun, September 4, 2005

http://www.theadvertiser.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5936,16493818%255E2682,00.html

Cara Jenkin, Courier-Mail, September 5, 2005,

http://www.thecouriermail.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5936,16493192%255E953,00.html



Jake Heron at Left Point, Fishery Bay