

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2006.07.31.a](#)

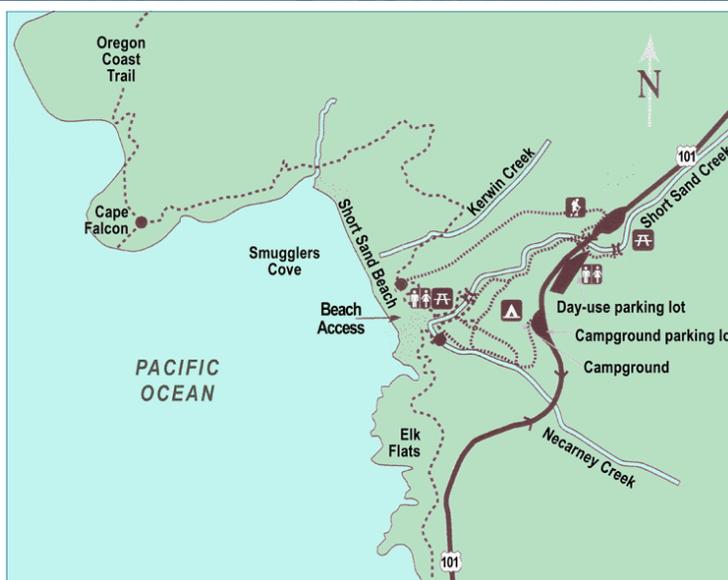
DATE: Monday July 31, 2006

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean at Short Sands, Oswald State Beach, Oregon, USA.

NAME: Robert Martin

DESCRIPTION: He is a 41-year-old male from Liberty Lake, WA, a Geologist. He is 5'10" tall, weighs 200 lbs, and was wearing a black wetsuit.

SURFBOARD: The surfer was using a nine-foot soft-top longboard: blue and green deck, white underside.



BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sky was clear and the air temperature was about 80°F.

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MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 33% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated. First Quarter Moon, August 2, 2006

SEA CONDITIONS: According to the surfer, the sea was warm, about 70°F, and there was a slight swell. Underwater visibility was five to 10 feet.

ENVIRONMENT: Oswald West Beach is nestled in a cove, and is popular with surfers and boogie boarders. The incident took place above a sandy seafloor, 100 feet from the kelp. There was an amount of loose kelp in deep water. No deep water channel was present but marine animals were in the area. The surfer was not aware of any sharks in the area and none had been sighted prior to the incident.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 300 feet

DEPTH OF WATER: 12 feet

TIME: 16h00 – 16h30

NARRATIVE: Robert Martin had been surfing for about three hours when the incident took place. "I was hit from behind in a wave. I was clear, no other surfers around me, and was hit hard from directly behind me, just as I was jumping up on the board. I had my leg hanging off on the left side (bad form) as I was paddling to catch the wave. I did catch the wave and while the thought of a shark went through my mind, I was also trying to think of other possibilities. My leg hurt, but I did paddle back out on the rip to ask if anyone saw anything in the surf. The few surfers out that evening (at Short Sands) said that I was clear, but had not seen when I got up on the wave."

"I surfed back in, but by now my leg was very painful, so I paddled in to the beach. When I was laying my board down, my friend yelled, 'What happened? You have a hole in your wet suit'. I was immediately alarmed and I felt a hole in the wet suit and my hand came away bloody. . . I was done surfing for the day and was pretty convinced that I was likely hit by a shark."

INJURY: When the surfer removed his wetsuit, he found two large triangular cuts separated by a "serrated pattern of scrapes" on the posterior left thigh.

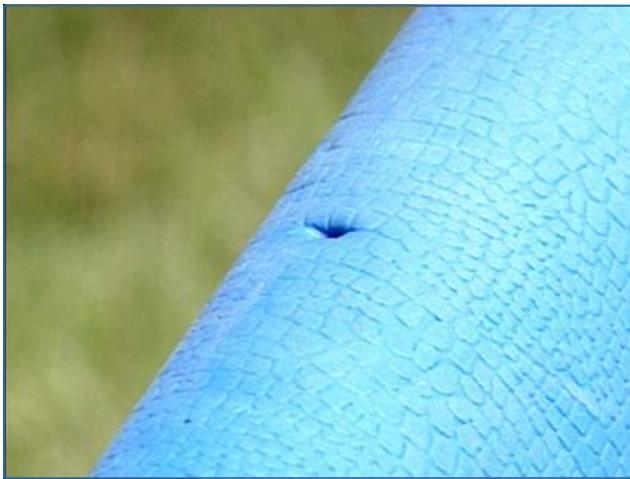
FIRST AID / TREATMENT: The wound was cleaned and antiseptic was applied. No further medical treatment was required.

SPECIES: Although the surfer did not see the shark (he was hit from behind), a ranger told him that the incident may have involved a white shark.

SOURCE: Jared Dillingham, reported Wednesday, August 16, 2006, KREM.com, http://www.krem.com/news/local/stories/krem2_081606_sharkattack.797405c.html

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Ralph Collier

Tooth mark in Bob Martin's wetsuit



Tooth marks in Bob Martin's board

