

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: [GSAF 2007.06.30.a](#)

DATE: Saturday June 30, 2007

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean off Will Rogers State Beach. The beach is located off the Pacific Coast Highway, near the intersection with Temescal Canyon Road, Los Angeles County, California, USA.



NAME: Katina Zinner

DESCRIPTION: She was wearing a bikini with silver jewelry; including anklets, bracelets and large silver rings.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sky was clear and the air temperature was in the mid-80s.

MOON PHASE: Full Moon

SEA CONDITIONS: The ocean was flat and the sea temperature was in the mid-60s.

ENVIRONMENT: Sharks are known to frequent this area from March thru September, although sightings have occurred as late as December. Three fishermen were observed on the rocks in front of the Bel Air Bay Club. The seafloor consisted of a sandy, flat bottom.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 20 yards

DEPTH OF WATER: 20 to 30 feet

TIME: 10h00

NARRATIVE: Katina Zinner was directly in front of the Bel Air Bay Club, which is north of the Temescal/Will Rogers State Beach and south of the surfing beach at Sunset Beach. She had been in the water about 50 minutes.

Zinner recounted; "While swimming, I felt an enormous clamp down bite sensation [on my left hand] and a very, very strong tug. I was in a very meditative state, as I usually am when I swim, and this just bolted me into panic. I yanked my left hand out of its mouth instinctively and swam to shore immediately hyperventilating for a few minutes, then collected myself and began swimming more slowly towards shore."

INJURY: "I lost a sliver ring about an inch long," reported Zinner. "I have bite marks from the top of my ring finger to the lower part of my palm."

FIRST AID: "Once I reached the shore I immediately went to the fishermen who were aware that something was wrong," said Zinner. "They had been fishing there and noticed I was wearing silver jewelry and suggested this may have been an unintentional lure to the shark that bit me. I reported the incident to the staff at the Bel Air Bay Club and then proceeded to do the same with the lifeguard at Sunset Beach who bandaged me."

SPECIES: Zinner never saw the shark. Examination of the photographs indicate that the cuts are the result of an encounter with a shark. They are consistent with a juvenile white, mako or blue shark's lower dentition, but it is not possible to make a positive determination as to species from the photographs.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Ralph Collier

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