

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2007.08.28.a

DATE: Tuesday August 28, 2007

LOCATION: The attack took place in the Pacific Ocean off Marina State Beach, Monterey County, California, USA.

36.7°N, 121.8°W

NAME: Todd Endris

DESCRIPTION: He is a 24-year-old male, a student at California State University-Monterey Bay. An avid surfer, he tries to surf every day and is a regular in the waters off Marina. He works at Picture Perfect aquarium shop in Marina as a home aquarium designer.

SURFBOARD: Blue triffin

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 10h46, Moss Landing recorded clear skies. The air temperature was 62.1°F [16.7°C], dew point 59.7°F [15.4°C]. humidity 85%, sea level pressure 30.06 inches [1017.8hPa] and wind direction was SSW at 10mph [16.1km/h].

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, August 28, 2007.

SEA CONDITIONS: North swell, 3.9 ft, 9 sec 313°

ENVIRONMENT: The Monterey County Beach, located about 35 miles south of Santa Cruz, is well known for its sand dunes, hang gliding and rugged surf with very strong rip currents. The area where the incident took place is considered an advanced surfing spot suitable only for skilled surfers. A pod of dolphins swam through the area moments before the incident. Next day at the Oceano Dunes, a 220 pound dead sea lion washed ashore with a fresh shark bite 16 to 18 inches in radius to the base of its skull. Marine Mammal Center volunteers said they have seen a higher than normal number of shark bitten marine mammals this year. Several shark sightings have been reported this year in the waters near Pismo Beach, Morro Bay, Avila Beach and Cambria.



Todd Endris' damaged surfboard on the sand after the attack.



Todd Endris

DAVID ROYAL/The Herald

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 yards

DEPTH OF WATER: Six to 20 feet

TIME: 10h45 or 11h00

NARRATIVE: Todd Endris was sitting on his board between waves when the shark emerged from behind him and bit him and his surfboard. The surfer screamed and started punching the shark while trying to flee. "Then the shark took him down under the water," said Loren Rex, a California State Parks spokesman. "Witnesses saw a lot of thrashing and some blood coming up. Other witnesses saw the shark let him up before biting him one more time."

One of three other surfers in the water at the time of the incident, 24-year-old Joe Jansen, said he when he heard Endris scream he looked over and saw a huge splash, "The shark was right on top of him and took him under."

When Endris resurfaced, Jansen pulled him back onto his own [Endris'] board and towed him toward the shore. Endris managed to ride a wave to land on his own, said 17-year-old Brian Simpson of Prunedale, who was also in the water at the time of the incident. "You could tell he was injured because the white water behind him was all red," Simpson said.

State officials closed all the beaches in a 15-mile stretch from Monterey State Beach to Moss Landing.

INJURY: The surfer sustained lacerations to his torso and thigh.

FIRST AID: Surfers pulled the patient to shore and administered first aid using a surf leash and a blanket as tourniquets to stop the bleeding until rescuers could arrive. Jansen, Simpson and Wes Williams, the other surfer who had been in the water, tended to Endris and talked to him while waiting for medical help. "He must have been in shock because he said he didn't feel any pain," Jansen said. "He was talking to us, answering questions."

The initial 911 call came from the Marina Coast Water District office, which is adjacent to the state beach's parking lot. State park officials received the call soon after 11h00. The patient was taken by ambulance to the Marina Municipal Airport, where he was airlifted to Santa Clara Valley Medical Center in San Jose, where he was listed in fair and stable condition. He had lost half his blood volume. He underwent surgery at 14h00. His injury required 500 stitches, 200 staples.

SPECIES: It is thought the attack involved a white shark, approximately 12 feet in length.

NOTE: Lee Morrow, who works with Endris at the aquarium shop, said he learned about the attack when he was heading to work. He ran to the beach, picked up Endris' dog, a boxer-Labrador mix named Cosmo, and took him back to the store with him. Morrow, a scuba diver, said Endris is a certified diver and also has a degree in sports medicine.

SOURCES: NBC-San Diego,

<http://www.nbcsandiego.com/mostpopular/13995434/detail.html>

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<http://www.knbc.com/news/13996562/detail.html>

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