

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2008.08.30.c

DATE: Saturday August 30, 2008

LOCATION: Tallow Beach, five km south of Byron Bay, New South Wales, Australia.

NAME: Ben Vining

DESCRIPTION: He is a 29-year-old male from Broadbeach.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, August 31, 2008

ENVIRONMENT: Tallow Beach, five kilometres south of Byron Bay, stretches south from Cosy Corner to Broken Head. Tallow Beach is good for beach fishing but the surf there is choppy and erratic. Tallow Beach is accessible by walking south from Cosy Corner, or from several small car parks off Alcorn Street in Suffolk Park, and is dog-friendly for several kilometres.

NARRATIVE: Ben Vining had just spotted a pod of dolphins when he noticed the shadow of the shark below him. At first he thought it was another dolphin but before he could get a second look, the shark struck his board, flinging the surfer into the water. The shark thrashed the water, moving between the surfer and his board. "Half of its tail came out of the water and you could see most of the shark, said the surfer. The surfboard was carried off by a rip and so the surfer caught a wave to shore.

INJURY: The surfer was not injured.

SPECIES: Not identified

SOURCE: Goldcoast.com, September 2, 2008, http://www.goldcoast.com.au/article/2008/09/02/15764_gold-coast-top-story.html

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Christofer Johansson, GSAF



Ben Vining shows the damage to his surfboard caused when it was struck by the shark.

