

ACTIVITY: Kayaking
CASE: [GSAF 2009.10.30](#)
DATE: Friday October 30, 2009
LOCATION: Portland, Victoria, Australia
38°20'S, 141°36'E

NAME: Rhys Gadsden
DESCRIPTION: He is a 27-year-old male from Portland.
KAYAK: A red-hulled kayak

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, October 26, 2009; Full Moon, November 3, 2009
TIME: Morning

NARRATIVE: Rhys Gadsden was paddling in Portland Bay when a shark bit his kayak opposite where he was sitting.

Mr. Gadsden bashed the shark on its nose about six times with his paddle before it turned around and rammed the kayak, causing him to fall into the water and the paddle to float away.

Mr. Gadsden attempted to sit on top of the slippery hull, but fell into the water again and hung onto the upturned kayak.

His predicament was noticed by people on the Lee breakwater who drove to the nearby boat ramp to notify a local boat owner who then rescued the kayaker.

INJURY: The paddler was not injured by the shark.

DAMAGE TO KAYAK: The shark's teeth left 45 cm of numerous punctures from its top and bottom jaws on the kayak .

SPECIES: The incident reportedly involved a white shark, four metres in length.



Photo by Glen Watson

Rhys Gadsden back home with his tooth-scarred kayak.

Shark attacks kayaker

The great white shark bit and rammed the kayak.

A kayaker has been attacked by a great white shark at Portland in south-west Victoria.

The three-metre shark bit and rammed the kayak, knocking the man into the water at Nunns Beach. He was picked up by a passing boat and was not injured.

Police are warning people to avoid the bay area at Portland and Nunns Beach.

SOURCE: Fri Oct 30, 2009, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/30/2729178.htm>

Shark attacks kayaker off Victoria

A kayaker is lucky to be alive after being attacked by a four-metre great white shark in the ocean off Victoria's southwest coast.

Rhys Gadsden was out for a morning paddle off Portland on Friday when he says a great white shark appeared from the deep and wrapped its jaws around his sea kayak, leaving giant puncture marks.

The 27-year-old was flipped off the kayak and spent a terrifying 15 minutes in the water by his kayak desperately hoping he would not be eaten alive. "I grabbed my oars, hit it in the head probably five to six times and it released it," the Portland man told the Nine Network. "As soon as it released its bite it turned and headbutted me and knocked me over and put me in the water with it.

"It was freaky being in the water, yeah, I didn't know where it went, I didn't know if it was going to come back. I didn't know what to do really, I didn't want to splash around and make it come back."

Finally a nearby boat came to his rescue. "It took me a while to calm down, I was shaking for hours after," he said. "It was big, dark eyes, scary, evil, I never want to do that again."

Less than 24 hours after coming face to face with the great white, Mr Gadsden was brave enough to paddle out for a few metres into the water on Saturday for TV cameras.

His friends have also nicknamed him "shark-bait".

Local surf life savers have conducted patrols of the harbour since the attack but have not spotted the shark.

SOURCE: The Age, *October 31, 2009*, <http://news.theage.com.au/breaking-news-national/shark-attacks-kayaker-off-victoria-20091031-hquu.html>

GREAT WHITE FRIGHT: Portland man's brush with death

PORTLAND'S Rhys Gadsden is probably the luckiest man in Australia after surviving a terrifying encounter with a shark yesterday afternoon.

Last night he was calming his nerves with a few celebratory drinks as the gravity of the incident settled in his mind.

His friends were jokingly nicknaming him "shark-bait".

"It's pretty freaky," the 27-year-old told The Standard as he recalled how his leisurely kayaking trip around Portland bay turned into a nightmare when he was attacked by what he described as a four-metre shark believed to be a great white.

It bit his vessel, leaving numerous teeth puncture marks from its top and bottom jaws, stretching about 45 centimetres, opposite where he was sitting.

Mr Gadsden fought it off by bashing its nose about six times with his paddle before it turned around and rammed the vessel causing him to fall into the water and the paddle to float away. He then tried to sit on top of the slippery hull before falling in again and hanging onto the upturned kayak, hoping the shark would not return.

Fortunately his predicament was noticed by people on the Lee breakwater who drove to the nearby boatramp to notify a local boat owner who raced to the scene and rescued the terrified kayaker.

SOURCE: Peter Collins, The Standard, October 31, 2009,
<http://www.standard.net.au/news/local/news/general/great-white-fright-portland-mans-brush-with-death/1664200.aspx>



Portland Bay showing Nuns Beach, Lee Breakwater, Port of Portland and Foreshore

Photo: Google Earth - ID: 17332106