



**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** [GSAF 2012.07.31.b](#)

**DATE:** Tuesday July 31, 2012

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean at Topanga Beach, Los Angeles County, California, USA.

118.582649, 34.036689

**NAME:** Jared Tennison

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 17-year-old male from Granada Hills. He is 6'4", weighs 160 lbs, and was wearing a blue and black wetsuit, and he is a lifeguard.

**SURFBOARD:** A seven-foot surf board, white on bottom with a purple foam top

### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** The sky was overcast, and the estimated air temperature was 65°F. At 06h51, Topanga recorded partly cloudy skies and 10-mile visibility. The air temperature was 64.9°F, dew point 55.9°F, humidity 73%, sea level pressure 29.95 inches and no wind.

**MOON PHASE:** Waxing Gibbous, 98% of the Moon was illuminated. Full Moon, August 2, 2012.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The ocean was calm and the sea surface temperature was approximately 60°F. Water visibility was limited due to very murky conditions. The incident took place over a rocky bottom.

**ENVIRONMENT:** The incident took place two yards from a large kelp bed. Pelicans and sea gulls were diving on baitfish which would occasionally leap out of the water. No marine mammals were observed.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** Approximately 100 yards

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Approximately 20 feet

**TIME:** 06h45

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**NARRATIVE:** Jared Tennison had been on the water about 45 minutes.

“I was sitting on my board . . . when all of a sudden I felt a bump on my leg. I looked down and saw something dark grey and felt something move against my board. I thought I had drifted shallower and hit a rock (trying to avoid thinking shark) but I realized I was still in deeper water. I then felt a large jolt against the bottom of my board and at the same time something pressing lightly against my leg. I was knocked off my board into the water by the impact. My hand brushed against something and got a bunch of small cuts. When I fell off my board I felt a huge rush of water push me parallel to the beach. I then sprinted to shore dragging my board and watched for 30 minutes but never saw the shark again.”

**INJURY:** The surfer sustained abrasions to his hand.

**DAMAGE TO SURFBOARD:** Unknown

**SPECIES:** Not identified

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Ralph Collier