



ACTIVITY: Kayaking

CASE: [GSAF 2014.09.03](#)

DATE: Wednesday September 3, 2014

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean off Manomet Point, Plymouth, Plymouth County, Massachusetts, USA.

NAMES: Ida Parker and Kristin Orr

DESCRIPTIONS: The women are in their mid-20s — one is from Plymouth and the other is from Barnstable.



Ida Parker and Kristin Orr

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 17h52, Plymouth recorded 10 mile visibility and clear skies. The air temperature was 80.1°F, dew point 55.9°F, humidity 43%, sea level pressure 30.00 inches (rising), and wind direction was variable at 3.5 mph.

MOON PHASE: Waxing Gibbous, 63% of the Moon was illuminated. First Quarter, September 2, 2014.

SEA CONDITIONS: Mean high tide at Plymouth occurred at 18h30, and the sea surface temperature was 73°F.

ENVIRONMENT: Shark sightings have become a more common occurrence during the summer months due to an increasing population of grey seals in the area. This incident comes a week after a white shark was spotted off the coast of Duxbury, forcing authorities to order more than 1,000 people out of the water and off the beach. The shark, seen from a Massachusetts State Police helicopter, was about 75 yards from the beach. State police immediately notified the Duxbury Police and Duxbury harbormaster, according to the state police. Plymouth harbormaster spokesman said they received a call earlier on September 3rd around 13h00 from another kayaker who had spotted a shark grabbing a seal. Officials

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searched the area for several hours after that but were unable to find the shark.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 yards

TIME: 18h00

NARRATIVE: The young women were taking pictures of seals when the shark hurtled up from the depths and struck one of kayakers with force, knocking both kayakers into the water. "It came directly out of the water, underneath the boat, launched [Krista] backwards and flipped me over," said Parker. "It happened so fast," Orr said. "I was talking to her and the next minute I'm in the water and I just see a shark biting my kayak." The shark bit through the bottom of the kayak and it started to sink. A neighbor heard the women's screams for help, called 911, and harbormaster officials rescued the young women.



Kristen, minutes before the white shark bit her kayak.

INJURY: The young women were not injured.

SPECIES: According to officials from the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, the incident involved a white between 12- and 14-feet in length, based on tooth fragments and bite radius on the kayak.

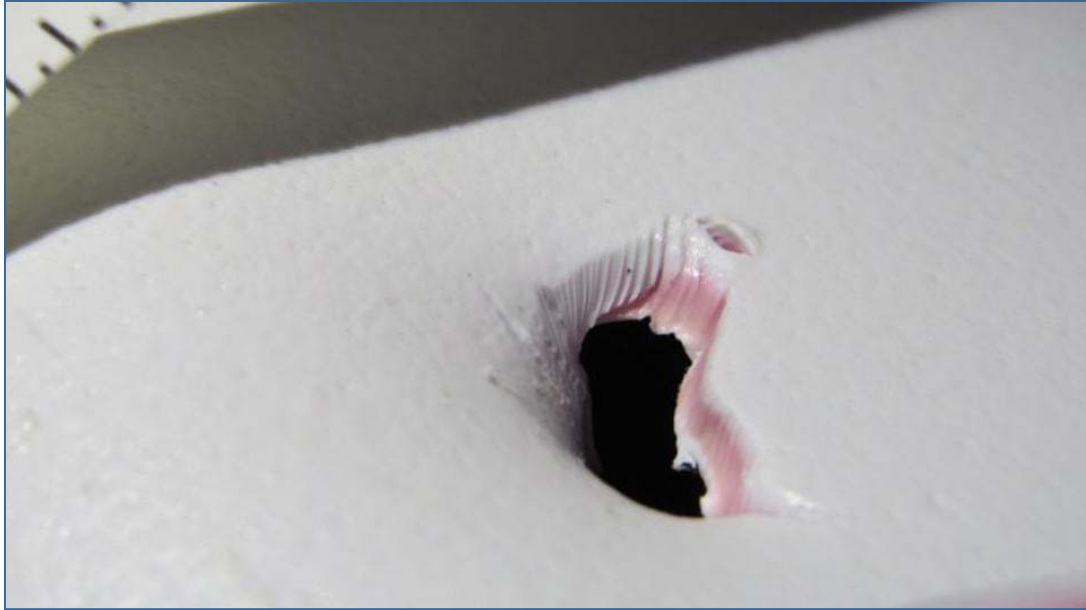


A helicopter from the Massachusetts State Police Air Wing responded over the Plymouth coastline after two kayakers were attacked by a shark off Manomet. The air crew observed the Harbor Master's rescue operations. Neither woman was injured. Photo shows the Harbor Master vessel carrying the kayakers back to shore.



Bite marks on the kayak

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John Chisholm of State Marine Fisheries

Bite marks on a kayak made by a shark are seen on Wed., 9/3/14, off the Plymouth coastline. Two female kayakers were involved in the attack but not injured. The size and pattern of the bite suggest an exploratory bite from a Great White Shark. The striations around the tooth hole were caused by the serrated edges found on a Great White's teeth.



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Mass. State Police Photo

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