



Connor Lyon (left) and the fishermen who came to his aid.

ACTIVITY: Kayak fishing

CASE: [GSAF 2015.08.18.b](#)

DATE: Tuesday August 18, 2015

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific off San Augustine, at Hollister Ranch, about six nautical miles west of Gaviota and 7.5 nautical miles east of Point Conception, Santa Barbara County, California, USA.

NAME: Connor Lyon

DESCRIPTION: A 22-year-old male from Santa Barbara. He is 6'3" and weighs 190 lbs.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: It had rained just before dawn but by 07h53, KSBA (Nearest airport to Gaviota Coast) recorded only overcast skies and nine-mile visibility. The air temperature was 69.1°F, dew point 64°F, humidity 84%, sea level pressure 29.94 inches and no wind.

MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 15% of the Moon was illuminated. New Moon, August 14, 2015.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 500 yards

TIME: 07h30

NARRATIVE: Connor Lyon, Matt Maheri and Mason



Connor Lyon examines the damage to his kayak

Reepmaker, set out on kayaks north of Gaviota State Beach before dawn to fish for yellowtail tuna and white seabass. They paddled out beyond the kelp beds and fished for squid to use as live bait later in the morning. According to Lyon, there were a couple squid boats and a handful of other fishermen already working the area. "There was tons of bait in the water and lots of activity," said Connor, "There were sea lions all over the place and they were acting pretty crazy." After a hour or so, Lyon drifted into calmer water. "All of a sudden... Kaboom. The shark came up from underneath. It grabbed onto the front end and started thrashing and shaking," he said. The shark lifted the kayak and flipped it to the side, sending Lyon into the water. When the shark let go and disappeared under the water, he scrambled to get back on top of his kayak and began yelling for help. Nearby fishermen on boats and kayaks saw the splashing from the shark's tail whipping back and forth. They raced over and pulled Lyon aboard.

INJURY: No injury

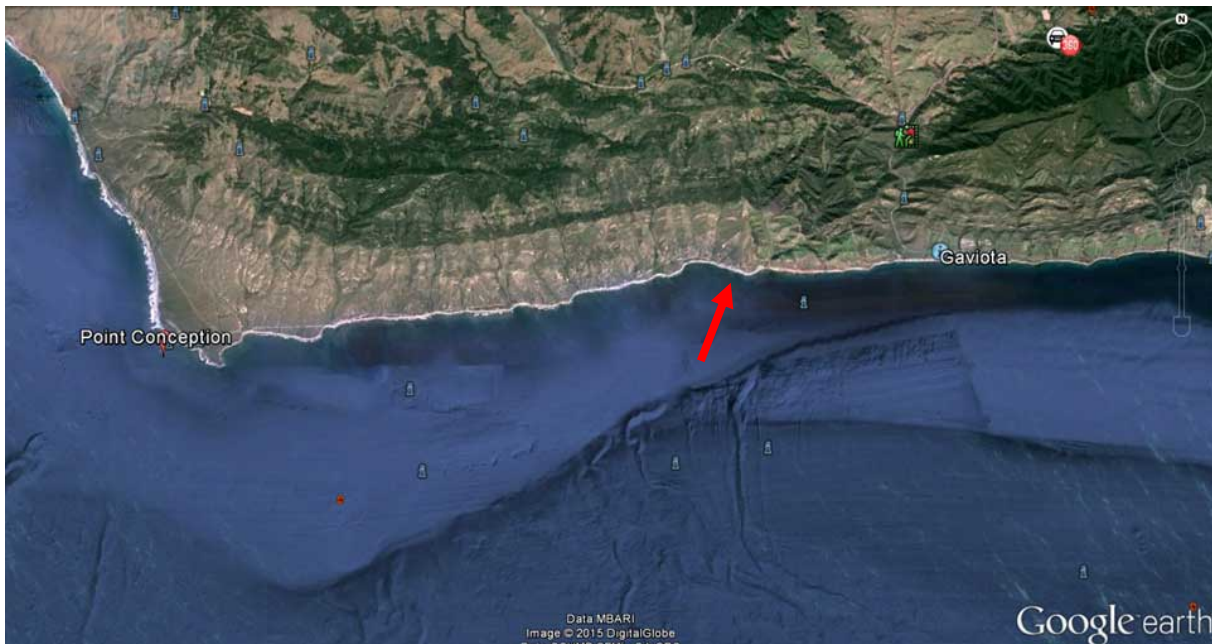
DAMAGE TO KAYAK: Lyon said he measured the bite marks end-to-end at 18 inches across.

SPECIES: White shark. One of the fishermen who rescued Lyon told KSBY he saw the shark and estimated it to be about 13 feet long

SOURCES: Matt Van Slyke, mvanslyke@ksby.com, KSBY, August 18, 2015
<http://www.ksby.com/story/29828348/shark-chomps-fishermans-kayak-off-gaviota-state-beach>

Ethan Stewart, Santa Barbara Independent, August 19, 2015
<http://www.independent.com/news/2015/aug/19/kayak-versus-shark-along-gaviota-coast/>

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Ralph Collier, Global Shark Accident File



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*Tooth marks of the shark are visible
on the hull of the kayak*

COMMENT: The shark did not display any aggression toward the man in the water, but effectively communicated that it wanted the kayak to leave the area.

