

**ACTIVITY:** Scuba diving  
**CASE:** **GSAF 2016.07.14.R**  
**DATE:** Reported July 14, 2016  
**LOCATION:** Tiger Beach, Bahamas

**NAME:** Michael Dornellas

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 31-year-old male, a professional videographer and owner of Reefhunter based out of West Palm Beach, Florida.

**NARRATIVE:** Michael Dornellas was filming underwater when he was head-butted by the shark. In the video, the curious shark can be seen swooping in to inspect him. Misjudging its strength and speed, the animal smashes into the man's face, briefly pulling down on his mask and knocking him sideways. "It felt like someone had punched me. The shark broke my mask and smashed it against my face. "It felt like someone had punched me. She wasn't trying to bite me or be aggressive. After the collision, she took off — I think I scared her really badly, so I felt bad." After the impact, Dornellas surfaced, fixed his mask, gathered himself, and then went back to diving.

**INJURY:** The diver's face was bruised.

**SPECIES:** A lemon shark, nine feet in length. Dornellas learned later that the shark was blind in its left eye. "So she didn't see me as much as I didn't see her," he said.

**SOURCES:** Daily Mail, July 14, 2016

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3689552/That-s-going-hurt-Watch-moment-BLIND-lemon-shark-headbutts-diver-s-face-swims-underwater.html>

Grind TV, July 14, 2016

<http://www.grindtv.com/wildlife/shark-punches-diver-face-breaks-mask-surprise-encounter-video/>

