

ACTIVITY: Canoeing

CASE: [GSAF 2021.06.30](#)

DATE: Wednesday June 30, 2021

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean at Parson's Landing, Emerald Bay, Catalina Island, Orange County, California, USA

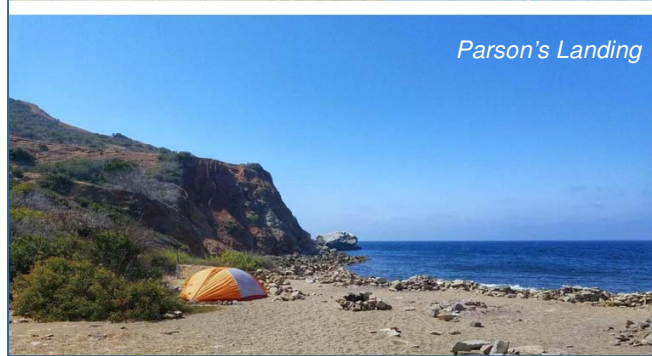


Emerald Bay

NAME: Eddie Cahill

DESCRIPTION: A 15-year-old male, Boy Scouts of America youth camp participant.

CANOE: An 11 person canoe with 11 people



Parson's Landing

BACKGROUND

WEATHER. Visibility was 10 miles and the sky was partly cloudy. The air temperature was 71°F, dew point 82°F, humidity 66%, sea level pressure 28.89 inches and wind direction a SSW at 5 kph

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 63% of the Moon was visible.

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea surface temperature was 70°F, mean low tide was at 08h58.

TIME: 07h45



Eddie Cahill

NARRATIVE: Eddie Cahill was preparing to canoe with his Boy Scout Troop. In the canoe were 11 others, including Cahill's two younger brothers and father. "We were falling a bit behind the other group so we decided we would cut through a kelp patch, while everyone else kind of went around the larger kelp patch," said Eddie.

He was sitting in front paddling when he thought they hit a rock. "Something slammed into the bottom of the boat and lifted the canoe up, I was on my down stroke with my paddle, so much closer to the water. So I'm reaching down (into the water), the shark comes up, it slides against the boat and my hand is there and then it slides down and re-submerges."

"We all start rowing, digging," his father said. Then he heard Eddie say, "I lost my paddle" and then "I think I lost my finger."

The ocean was cleared and closed a mile in each direction of the site of the incident for 24 hours. Los Angeles County Fire Lifeguard officials notified the state Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Coast Guard of the incident.

INJURY: "It cut the ligaments in the hand that were holding the finger in place so my finger was kind of hanging down," Eddie said he did not feel any pain.

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FIRST AID / TREATMENT: The scout had a first aid kit in the canoe and one of the camp's leaders was an EMT. Lifeguard Paramedic Rescue Boat Crews responded. Due to the remote location the patient was airlifted to UCLA Harbor Hospital to undergo surgery.

SPECIES: The size and species of shark were not known.

SOURCES: ABCNews, June 30, 2021

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/kayaker-bitten-shark-catalina-island/story?id=78587211>

CBS Los Angeles, June 30, 2021

<https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2021/06/30/kayaker-bitten-shark-parsons-landing-catalina-island/>

ABC7, July 2, 2021

<https://abc7.com/teen-boy-scout-recounts-being-bitten-by-shark-off-catalina-island/10852198/>

CASE INVESTIGATORS: Ralph Collier, GSAF and Kevin McMurray, TrackingSharks.com