

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2021.10.03.a](#)

DATE: Sunday October 3, 2021

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean at Salmon Creek Beach just north of Bodega Bay, Sonoma County, California

NAME: Eric Steinley

DECRPTION: A 38-year-old male

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The air temperature was 21 °C.

MOON PHASE: Waning Crescent, 9% of the Moon was visible.

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea surface temperature was 14 °C and mean high tide occurred at 10h36.

TIME: 09h00

NARRATIVE: Eric Steinley was lying on his stomach paddling his surfboard just beyond the paved parking lot at North Salmon Creek Beach when the shark swam up from below. The shark approached him from his side and sunk its teeth into his left leg, clamping down on the back of his upper leg and the bottom of his surfboard. "The feeling was very heavy, like swimming with a bag of bricks on you," Steinley said. "I reached down with my right hand and touched its massive face, then I grabbed it in the eye, not so much aggressively, just trying to figure out what it was." Realizing that a shark had latched onto him, Steinley began to wrestle himself free. He tried to punch the shark in the face, slicing his hand on its teeth, and then pushed it away. After freeing himself from the shark's jaws, Steinley righted himself on his board and paddled for shore, yelling out to warn the group of about 10 other surfers in the water that a shark was lurking among them.

Officials with the California Department of Parks and Recreation posted closure notices along the two-mile stretch of coast between Mussel Point and Marshall Gulch. Beaches will stay open, but swimming, surfing, kayaking and paddling in the water are not allowed through Tuesday, officials said.

INJURY: Posterior Left thigh

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Other surfers offshore at Salmon Creek pulled the patient ashore and provided initial treatment, including a tourniquet, applied about 10 minutes after the bite. A California Highway Patrol helicopter airlifted the patient to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, hospital in Santa Rosa.

SPECIES: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife confirmed that the incident involved a white shark, at least 10-feet long, based on the DNA and bite radius from Steinley's surfboard.



Salmon Creek Beach



Eric Steinley

SOURCES: Newsweek, October 3, 2021

<https://www.newsweek.com/shark-attack-bite-california-surfer-bodega-bay-1635169>

Mercury News, October 3, 2021

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/10/03/shark-attack-north-of-bay-area-bitten-surfer-pulled-from-water-flown-to-hospital/>

Press Democrat, October 3, 2021

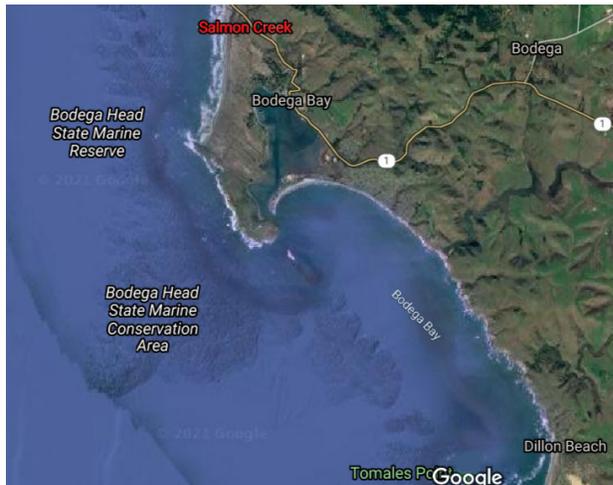
<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/surfer-airlifted-to-hospital-after-shark-bite-on-sonoma-coast/>

Press Democrat, October 5, 2021

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/surfer-describes-shark-attack-in-sonoma-county-that-left-him-with-severe-in/>

Witness Interview at: <https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/surfer-describes-shark-attack-in-sonoma-county-that-left-him-with-severe-in/>

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