

## Investigation of Shark Attack on Kenneth Doudt

At Cannon Beach By Terry Link, Ore. Dept. Fish & Wild.

A call was recieved at 12:15 PM at Astoria office from Victoria Hawkins reporting a shark attack at Haystack Rock. I made several calls before the Seaside Hospital would verify that a Kenneth Doudt had indeed been bitten by a large fish while surfing. The bite was large and he would be transferred to St. Vincent Hospital. Doctor Wayne was contacted at the hospital but was going to St. Vincent with Doudt.

Calls were made to verify that a surfboard had been bitten and its whereabouts. The board had been taken by Gary Moon EMT to the Cannon Beach Fire Hall. Larry Hreha and I checked and measured the bite marks as 12 3/4 by 8 3/4 inches and verified it as a shark bite. The lower jaw impact indented the styreen foam board by about 25 mm at the front of the jaw. The surfboard was styreen foam covered with a layer of glass mat and resin. Penetration of front teeth was 33mm, front teeth measured 31 to 33 mm in width, and teeth were triangle shaped. A probe check of teeth holes found no tooth fragments. No species of shark was named in the attack. Calls to Ron Shay and Dale Snow were made to let them know that the attack was for real. Dale Snow indicated that the attack was probably that of a white shark. A 9:00 PM call to Dr. Wayne was made to see if tooth fragments had been found in the patient. He had found none but gave me Dr. Ahmad and Dr. Ham phone numbers at which time I called them requesting that tooth fragments be saved. A call from Dr. Ham the next morning reported no fragments were found.

On the 28th I called Gary Middoff EMT about getting the surfboard for further examination. Sid Cook from OSU called and said he would like to verify the attack for Mote Marine Laboratory, Florida and ask for my aid. At the time he indicated that from my preliminary tooth size and shape data that the shark was probably a large white shark. At 11:00 I talked to two witness who described a 18 to 28 inch dorsal, a minimum 36 inch caudal and a light gray body an est. 15 feet in length. Their description best fit the white shark in Field Guide to Eastern Pacific and Hawaiian sharks by Kato, Springer and Wagner. Also witness reported a sealion in the area before the attack.

On the 29th I had the board X-rayed by Columbia Memorial Hospital - no tooth fragments were found. A call from Ralph Collier of the Sharks Research Committee verified the shark to be a white shark and estimated the shark to be 16 to 17 feet, 2,500 to 4,000 lbs. and probably a female. The size of the shark was established from distal tooth measurements. The attack was thought to be territorial rather than a feeding attack. In talking with Mr. Collier it was felt that some white sharks may be in the area off and on all the time. But during the summer many follow warm tuna water north clear to Alaska. Then as the warm current breaks up in the fall, the cold upwelling along the beach tends to break down leaving warmer water along the beach during September to December. This connected with fall salmon runs entering coastal rivers and the increasing seal population probably lures white sharks to our area. Mr. Collier also asked for my aid in investigating for the shark Research Committee.

On the 30th Doudt's doctor said attack came while he was on the board, thus picture complete. Attack came as Doudt layed on his surfboard facing seaward about 100 yards from the beach and 75 yards from Haystack Rock at 10:45 AM on November 27, 1979. The shark approached from south seizing the board and Doudt in his jaws. Shaking Doudt the shark sank at which time Doudt came free. Doudt swam to his board and come into the beach on the next wave where friends helped him till the Cannon Beach EMT's arrived.

On December 4th arrangements were made for Sid Cook to talk with witnesses and EMT's. Also the surfboard was returned to Cannon Beach fire dept.. I had been holding the surfboard till Cook could get to the coast to look at it and arranged for it to be taken to OSU for more X-rays.

A later call to Cook indicated that after many X-rays a small serrated tooth fragment was found from the fourth lateral tooth in the bottom jaw. The fragment 3 by 8 mm was found between layers of smashed fiberglass. Comparisons to other teeth will be made at a later date.