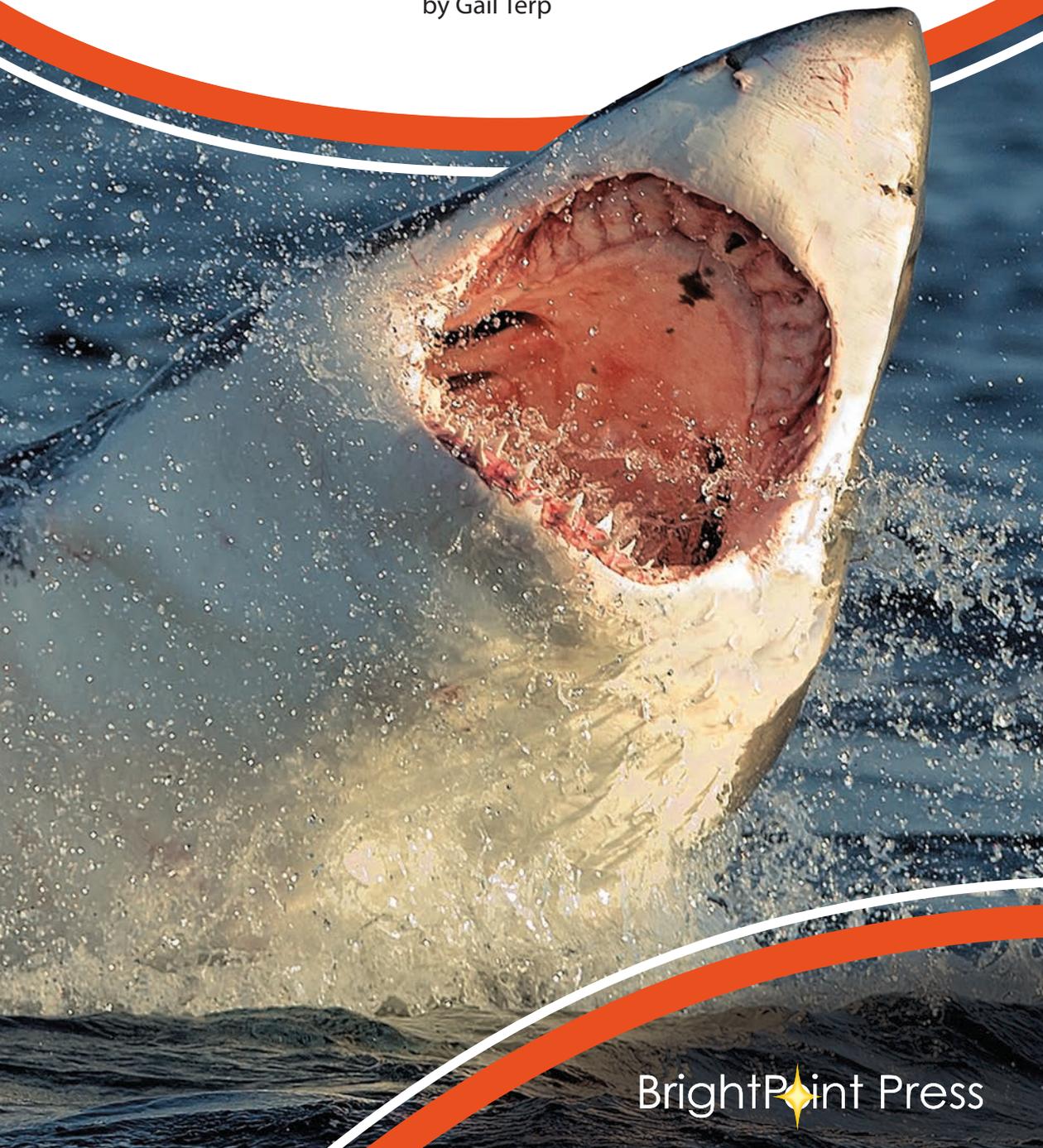


ALL ABOUT SHARKS

SHARK ATTACKS

by Gail Terp



BrightPoint Press

CONTENTS

AT A GLANCE	4
INTRODUCTION	6
WHY STUDY SHARK ATTACKS?	
CHAPTER ONE	12
HOW BIG A RISK?	
CHAPTER TWO	26
THE MOST DANGEROUS SHARKS	
CHAPTER THREE	38
LIVED TO TELL	
CHAPTER FOUR	48
STAYING SAFE IN THE WATER	
Glossary	58
Source Notes	59
For Further Research	60
Index	62
Image Credits	63
About the Author	64

AT A GLANCE

- A shark can detect the tiny bits of electricity that prey makes when it moves.
- Sharks have three ways to attack their prey. These are hit-and-run, bump-and-bite, and sneak attacks.
- There is no proof that sharks actively hunt humans. However, some human actions can lead to a higher risk of attack.
- There are hundreds of kinds of sharks, but only about twelve are a danger to humans.
- The United States and Australia have the most shark attacks each year.
- Scientists have discovered a 3,000-year-old human skeleton with shark bite marks.

1

HOW BIG A RISK?

The first known shark attack report was written in 1580. While sailing from Portugal to India, a British officer saw a man fall overboard. The crew threw the man a block of wood attached to a rope. As they were pulling him in, a shark attacked.

It killed the man. In his report, the officer described the attack.

After that 1580 attack, there were many other reports. One of the worst shark attacks in history was in 1945. The USS *Indianapolis* sailed in the Pacific Ocean during World War II (1939–1945). More than

The sinking of the USS Indianapolis led to one of the worst shark attacks in history.





Historians believe oceanic whitetip sharks attacked the survivors of the USS Indianapolis. These sharks can be aggressive toward humans.

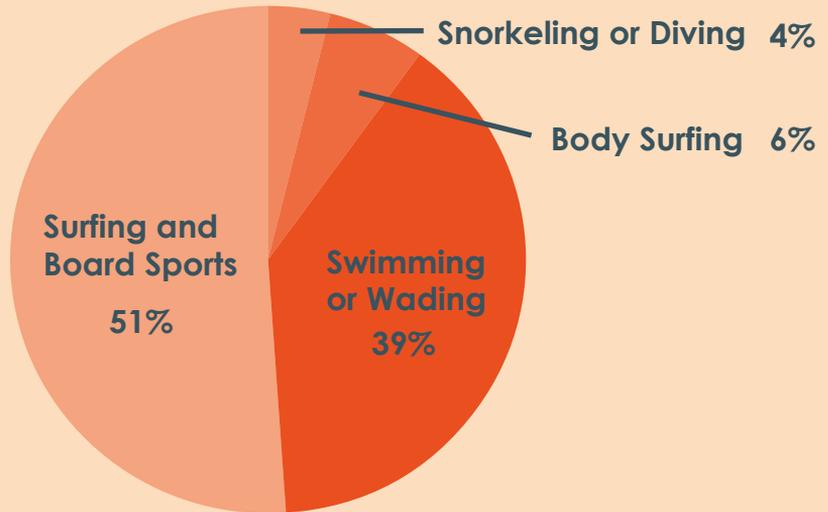
1,000 sailors were aboard. The ship was hit by torpedoes and began to sink. Nearly 900 of the men jumped into the ocean. They were alone in the water for four days. Sharks attacked the swimming sailors. By the time rescue came, only 316 men survived.

mistakes. Humans do not look like common shark prey. And they don't smell like prey animals either. But a shark may swim closer to a human to find out more. A quick bite would give it more information. Its taste buds will tell the shark whether this strange creature is worth eating.

THE MOVIE *JAWS* AND SHARK FEAR

In the summer of 1975, the movie *Jaws* came out. Moviegoers watched as a great white shark killed five people. This movie changed how people viewed sharks. Some were afraid to go in the water. They saw sharks as bloodthirsty hunters. Others decided to hunt sharks.

2021 SHARK ATTACK VICTIMS BY ACTIVITY



Source: “The ISAF 2021 Shark Attack Report,” Florida Museum, January 24, 2022. www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu.

Some activities may put people more at risk of a shark attack than others. Surfers are often in areas that are commonly visited by sharks. Activities that involve a lot of splashing may also attract sharks.

The International Shark Attack File

researches shark attacks. Its research

found the risk was highest during surface

activities. Surface activities include surfing

and rafting. The next highest risk came

GLOSSARY

electrosensory system

a system that can detect electricity

endothermic

able to maintain a constant body temperature independent of the environment

first responder

someone who is trained to respond to an emergency

reefs

areas of rock, coral, or sand near the surface of the ocean

repellent

a substance that makes an animal stay away

species

a group of animals of the same kind

temperate

having neither very hot nor very cold temperatures

wet suit

a tight-fitting suit made of rubber that is worn in cold water for warmth

SOURCE NOTES

INTRODUCTION: WHY STUDY SHARK ATTACKS?

1. Quoted in Julius Whigham II, "Shark-Bite Victim 'Happy to Be OK' After Incident Near Juno Beach Pier, Surgery on Arm," *Palm Beach Post*, March 19, 2021. www.palmbeachpost.com.

CHAPTER ONE: HOW BIG A RISK?

2. Quoted in Alex Last, "USS *Indianapolis* Sinking: 'You Could See Sharks Circling,'" *BBC News*, July 29, 2013. www.bbc.com.

3. Quoted in Richard Gray, "The Real Reasons Why Sharks Attack Humans," *BBC Future*, August 8, 2019. www.bbc.com.

CHAPTER THREE: LIVED TO TELL

4. Quoted in "Surfer Bitten by Bull Shark off Florida Beach," *CBS Miami*, May 5, 2021. <https://miami.cbslocal.com>.

5. Quoted in Airman 1st Class Thomas Sjoberg, "Police Officer Aids Shark Bite Victim at Florida Beach," *Space Launch Delta 45*, n.d. www.patrick.spaceforce.mil.

6. Quoted in "Swan River Shark Victim Cameron Wrathall 'Died' After Brutal Attack," *PerthNow*, February 8, 2021. www.perthnow.com.au.

CHAPTER FOUR: STAYING SAFE IN THE WATER

7. Quoted in Jake Rossen, "5 Expert Tips for Surviving a Shark Attack," *Mental Floss*, July 14, 2021. www.mentalfloss.com.

FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

BOOKS

Brian Skerry, *The Ultimate Book of Sharks*. Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2018.

Chelsea Xie, *Shark Biology*. San Diego, CA: BrightPoint Press, 2023.

Karen Romano Young, *Shark Quest: Protecting the Ocean's Top Predators*. Minneapolis, MN: Twenty-First Century Books, 2018.

INTERNET SOURCES

Richard Gray, "The Real Reasons Why Sharks Attack Humans," *BBC Future*, August 8, 2019. www.bbc.com/future.

Sabrina Imbler, "To Err Is Human; To Mistakenly Bite Is Baby White Shark," *New York Times*, October 27, 2021. www.nytimes.com.

"Why Are We So Afraid of Sharks?" *Nature Conservancy Australia*, n.d. www.natureaustralia.org.au.

INDEX

- 1580 attack, 12–13
- Albert, Bryce, 6–9
- Australia, 38, 44–47
- blacktip shark, 9, 34
- blood, 41, 43, 53
- blue sharks, 36
- bull sharks, 28, 32–34, 44
- bump-and-bite attacks, 23, 29, 33
- Cox, Loel Dean, 15
- Dodds, Alex, 46–47
- dolphins, 52–53
- fatal attacks, 29, 32, 34–37, 40
- fishing, 37, 43, 46, 50
- Florida Museum, the, 19, 26, 29, 33
- great white sharks, 17, 28–30, 31, 40, 43
- hit-and-run attacks, 22
- hunting, 17, 18, 21–22, 33, 53
- Jaws*, 17
- Lowry, Gretta, 41–43
- May, Gary, 46
- oceanic whitetips, 36
- prey, 16–17, 21, 29–31, 33, 35, 49, 53, 55
- safety, 10, 25, 31, 49–57
- sand tiger sharks, 35
- senses
 - electrosensory system, 16
 - hearing, 15
 - sight, 15, 33
 - smell, 15, 17, 33
 - touch, 15
- shark tags, 56–57
- shortfin makos, 37
- sneak attacks, 23, 30–31, 55
- Spasojevic, Nemanja, 43–44
- speed, 31, 37
- tiger sharks, 28, 30–32, 34, 40
- United States, 21, 38, 40–44
- USS *Indianapolis*, 13–15
- water activities
 - snorkeling, 19, 43
 - surfing, 19, 41, 43, 46, 50
 - swimming, 19–20, 43–44, 50, 53
- Wikso, Adrienne, 41
- Wrathall, Cameron, 44–45