

# Are Sharks Out To Get Us?

By: Chloe Lohr

Most of the time when swimming in the ocean, you are always thinking about the worst. Well, 50-year-old Lyn Jutronich was swimming in the water at a Southern California beach and was attacked by a shark. Like Jutronich's experience, reports are showing more and more shark attacks coming up and there may be reasons as to why we are seeing more deadly attacks.

The increase of shark attacks is due to a growing population of different shark species. Scientists say that attacks are due to climate change and warmer temperatures. Some shark attacks could be because the sharks see people's hands or feet in the murky water and they think it's a small fish. A shark could also be curious, and if they see someone in the water splashing, they get a closer look and then bite. People in shark- infested waters are more at risk around sunrise, sunset, and nighttime because sharks hunt for food around those times. When swimming in river mouths or waters with lots of fish, there's a higher chance of or getting bit by a shark. Research shows that the most number of attacks happen in the month of September. Mr. Crow, a science and health teacher, says where the most attacks happen, "The U.S. has the most shark attacks in the world with most of them happening in Florida." Unfortunately, shark species live in all five of the world's oceans and can be found in shallow parts of the water. Even if a shark is large they can still attack in shallow water, so it's important to always be aware and cautious when in the ocean.

It's important to be aware when in the ocean because, like most people, Jutronich was a frequent swimmer and was comfortable in the water. Then, she looked down and saw a shark's mouth on her right leg. According to Jutronich, the shark shook her leg once and then let go. She was coming up for air, and she told her swim partner that they had to get back to shore. She was

brought to the hospital and had minor injuries and survived the attack. The shark had no reason to attack Jutronic.

Ultimately, there is an increase in shark attacks because of many reasons with the main being the more people we have in waters the more encounters we see. The best way to prevent getting bit is to swim in groups or with another person because sharks are more likely to attack a person alone. Mr.Crow says you could avoid being attacked by, “Avoid swimming, but probably avoid going out in the surf at dawn or dusk on a flotation device.” Try not to swim far out into the water because the further out you are, the higher you are at risk of getting bit. Sharks are the most active at night so avoid swimming when dark. The best way not to get bit if you see a shark is to know what to do. If you come across a shark when swimming in the water, the best thing to do is not splash because that will make them feel threatened and lead them to bite. Remain calm and slowly try to swim towards shore making sure to keep eye contact with the shark. The more people know about sharks and their behavior, the more it will help them if they come in contact with one.