

August 8, 2016

Moss Landing, south pipe

If you know of Sam Teel, you know that he is a Great White Hunter. This has nothing to do with sharks but refers to the fact that he has been on safaris in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Then on August 8, 2016, Sam met the other side of that label.

On that day he motored his boat from the Monterey Coast Guard pier to the pipeline just south of the only remaining beachfront sand plant in the U.S. (AKA Marina pipeline or Moss Landing south pipe) to look for halibut with his diver girlfriend Gayla Crisler.

Sam uses a pole spear with a long 3-prong barbless paralyzer tip for all of his fishing, and this day was trying out a new one about 9 feet long. After doing one tank the couple surfaced and did nearly an hour interval as they were in 70' of water.

Sam wanted to do a second tank as he had used the first to unsuccessfully look for halibut. He descended to the bottom and was at the anchor on the rocks when he saw a 10-12' long shark pass behind him at distance of about 5 feet. The visibility was about 20' so it was easy to identify it as a great white. The shark continued away from him to the edge of visibility, then turned around and without hesitation came directly at Sam. The shark was not swimming rapidly but more determinedly and directly at him. When the shark did not turn and was only about 4 feet away Sam shot directly on the nose. The prongs went in 5-6". The shark shook its head and dislodged the spear, then turned and swam away rapidly. Sam then went directly up the anchor line and got out of the water.