Osg4 2012-07-31 SHARK

The Osgood File…

Just a reminder that while it rarely happens, it does happen sometimes.



Which is why there are new signs at Cape Cod’s Ballston Beach that say simply: Swim at Your Own Risk:

More after this from Charlie:

(((SPOT)))

On Monday Christopher Myers was body-surfing when he was attacked by what eyewitnesses claim was a shark attack:



Myers survived and is being treated at Massachusetts General.

Now this is the point where I could just press a button and play the theme from Jaws. But I’m not going to do that, because that button broke years ago due to overuse, and because shark attacks are incredibly rate. Confirmed fatal shark attacks off the coastal waters of the United States, including Hawaii, total 44. That’s over the past 342 years that records have been kept.

Australia is the place to worry about sharks – 217 documented fatal attacks, most of the western coast – the latest fatality last month when a surfer was bitten in half. But again, that total goes beck over 300 years.

As for Cape Cod, CBS’s Seth Doane talked with Captain David Murdoch, who takes tourists on shark spotting trips, and he knows exactly why sharks are being attracted to the shore this summer: it’s the SEALS:



Are there a lot of seals out there? (Murdoch:) There are a lot of seals, yeah. There are thousands. And they are increasing in number, because they're protected." (:10)

Protected by the 1972 Marine Mammal protection Act. Which the sharks apparently haven’t read. Or perhaps they have. Again I’m tempted to press that button. But I won’t because facts are facts and the last documented fatal attack by a great white shark in Massachusetts was in 1936, so you shouldn’t let this story stop you from having a little fun at the beach. Just try not to look like a seal.