

WHY SHARKS ATTACK

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jtkoch@pbs.org pbsinternational.org In August 2012, 34-year-old Jon Hines was surfing off the coast of western Australia when he was struck by a deadly predator: a great white shark. Despite a savage bite wound to his stomach, Jon fought for his life. He was eventually rescued and rushed to a hospital where doctors battled against the odds to save his life. Jon was one of the lucky ones.

In recent years, a spate of deadly shark attacks has gripped Australia; in 2011 alone, three deaths occurred in just seven weeks, including American tourist George Wainwright. What is behind this deadly spree? To separate fact from fear, NOVA teams up with leading shark experts in Australia and the United States to discover the science behind the great white's killer instinct.

Are sharks really targeting humans, and can a deeper understanding of these fearsome predators help stop the next attack? Or, as some locals believe, is the only solution to fight back by killing sharks en masse?

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CREDITS

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