Leatherman, Katie

DSC 530

Final Project

For this project, I chose to look at historical reported shark bites. What I wanted to find was whether there was a definite trend to predicting the victims of bites, or if there was a significant pattern. Once I started my EDA, I realized that a lot of my variables wouldn’t be as helpful as I had hoped. Many answers were clearly strings, and not chosen from prefilled categories, like country name, or activities when the attack happened. With more sophisticated tools and more time, I could probably sort through a lot of these to get more valuable insight, but that wasn’t possible right now. For my graphs, I ended up focusing on the top answers for a lot of variables, because otherwise the graphs would become almost impossible to read or interpret.

Because I ended up with only a few numerical variables to work with (primarily Age and Year), I definitely was limited in my analysis. I could only look at these relationships, and, as I explain in my powerpoint, I think a lot of the correlation is not causation, and primarily caused by increasing access to beaches and other bodies of water.

I would have liked to have variables such as location, time, or even severity of injury beyond fatal or not. Once I started my analysis, I realized how little I had to work with. It was definitely a challenge I was not expecting, and I wish I had a better way to interpret the given responses into a way I could analyze them better.

Overall, I feel like my analysis didn’t really give me much insight as to what trends there are in shark attacks, other than most are nonfatal, most are unprovoked, and overwhelmingly more men than women are bit. It is a topic I would like to look into further, given more tools.