



ACTIVITY: Standing / Wading

CASE: [GSAF 1981.03.25](#)

DATE: Wednesday March 25, 1981

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Singer Island, Riviera Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, USA.



NAME: Christopher J. Auditore

DESCRIPTION: A 19-year-old male. He is 5'7" tall and weighs 144 lbs. He was clad in grey and blue swim trunks and had no injuries before the incident.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: It was a bright, sunny day and the air temperature was about 73°F.

MOON PHASE: Third Quarter, March 28, 1981

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea was rough with fairly heavy swells, and the water temperature was about 67°F. High tide was at 10h39, low tide at 16h56.

ENVIRONMENT: The incident site is on the shoreward side of a moderately deep channel that runs parallel to the shoreline. The bottom consists of shells several feet out, then sand, no vegetation. Sharks (unidentified species) had been sighted in the general area during the day and the municipal beach (Riviera Beach) was closed to bathers at about 12h00 because of the sightings. The site of this incident is about seven blocks north of the municipal beach.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 10 to 15 feet

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: Two to four feet

TIME: 15h00

NARRATIVE: Christopher Auditore went into the water to wash sand from his body and legs. "I was in the water up to my knees and a wave came in, raising the water level to about mid-thigh," he said. He was facing east, his right leg extended eastward, when the shark apparently approached from the rear. "The waves were a pretty good size. When the wave came in I felt a shark bite my leg. I reached down, grabbed the shark by the head – it still had hold of my leg – and pulled it up enough to see the head and the length of its body.

Then I sort of pushed it away and let go, and took off running for the shore. They (people on shore) helped me to the beach.”

INJURY: Minor injury. The left calf and ankle were bitten. The wound consisted of three lacerations: 1 cm, 1.5 cm and 0.5 cm in length. The lower injury toward the anterior of the leg consisted of five lacerations: 1 cm, 3 cm, 2.5 cm, 0.5 cm and 0.5 cm in length with about nine small to large puncture wounds triangular in shape. The tendon and nerve sheath was visible upon opening the lacerations in the lower wound but these processes were undamaged. Muscle tissue was undamaged. There was a long (3 cm) straight laceration on the heel which did not appear to be a bite per se, but could have resulted as Auditore pulled his leg/foot away from the shark’s teeth. He says that he felt very little pain, had little blood loss and never suffered from shock.

FIRST AID: “The paramedics came up and wrapped my leg in a bandage,” said Auditore. “The bite wasn’t bad enough to call an ambulance so my girlfriend brought me to the hospital.”

SPECIES INVOLVED: Auditore stated that the shark was about four to five feet [1.2 m to 1.5 m] in length. “It had a blunt, rounded snout – very heavy,” he said. “It had a heavy-looking body, stocky-looking ...It wasn’t a skinny fish at all. It was big and wide – very wide.” Although there is no concrete evidence as to the identification of the species of shark involved in this incident, Auditore’s description and the appearance of the puncture wounds suggests that a juvenile bull shark, *C. leucas*, *C. milberti* or dusky shark, *C. obscurus*, was involved.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Morris Vorenberg, Global Shark Accident File