

ACTIVITY: Floating

CASE: GSAF 1993.03.22

DATE: Monday March 22, 1993

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean off Singer Island (Palm Beach Shores), Florida, USA.

26°47'N, 80°02'W

NAME: Ken Dannewitz

DESCRIPTION: He is a 25-year-old male, a cook from Palm Beach Gardens.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, March 23, 1993

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was murky.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 feet

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: Five feet (chest-deep)

TIME: 16h00



NARRATIVE: Ken Dannewitz had taken his girlfriend to the beach. He was in the water alone, floating on the surface, facing away from the beach, when he felt something tug at his feet. When the shark bit down a second time and began to thash. "It had both my feet in its mouth, so I knew it was big," he said. "It was powerful because it was able to start to roll me over."

Instinctively, Dannewitz reached out and thumped the shark on the snout. It released him, and he swam furiously towards shore. "I was scared because I couldn't see it," he said. He caught a wave that swept him to shore.

INJURY: The dorsal and lateral surfaces of both feet were lacerated by the shark. Tendons in his toes were cut and bones were broken. He sustained as numerous inch-deep puncture marks on both feet. "The first thing I did was look down," said Dannewitz. "I wanted to see if my toes were all there."

TREATMENT: He was treated in St. Mary's Hospital. The attending physician was Dr. Mark Pinsky who described the injury as, "looking like someone took a razor blade and made slashes on the top and sides of his feet."

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified

SOURCES: Orlando Sentinel, March 25, 1993, page B5; The Palm Beach Post, September 17, 1993, page 1B