

**ACTIVITY:** Bobbing in the surf

**CASE:** **GSFAF 1996.06.25**

**DATE:** Tuesday June 25, 1996

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Fripp Island, Beaufort County, South Carolina, USA.

32.4°N, 80.6°W

**NAME:** Beth Shannon

**DESCRIPTION:** She was a 24-year-old female, a Johnson County eighth-grade teacher from Dublin who was spending a week-long vacation at Fripp Island.

### BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** The air temperature at Beaufort ranged from a high of 89°F [31°C] to 71°F [21°C].

**MOON PHASE:** First Quarter, June 24, 1996.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Storms were brewing in the distance and some officials told Shannon they thought the weather might have "stirred up the shark and sent it beachward".

**TIME:** Afternoon

**NARRATIVE:** Beth Shannon said that she had been "bobbing in the surf and whammo ..." "All of a sudden I just felt something. And for a split second I really didn't know where I was. It was very, very scary. I told my aunt, 'We have got to get out of here, something has hit me. That's how I described it, 'Something has hit me,'" she said.

"The way the movies are, that's exactly the way I felt. ... Everybody was just in awe over it, the way my leg looked. It was pretty gory."

**INJURY:** She sustained lacerations to her left shin, left heel and the dorsal surface of her left foot.

**TREATMENT:** She was taken to Beaufort Memorial Hospital where 24 stitches were needed to repair her injuries to her shin, ankle and foot. She remained in the hospital overnight.

**SPECIES:** Not identified. Shark or not, Shannon figures it was no guppy snacking on her leg: "It hurt bad enough I knew I had to get out of there. It wasn't like a crab swimming by."

**SOURCE:** Joe Kovac Jr., The Macon Telegraph, Thursday June 27, 1996, B1

