

ACTIVITY: Boogie boarding

CASE: GSAF 1996.09.01.b

DATE: Sunday September 1, 1996

LOCATION: The accident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Garden City, Horry County, South Carolina, USA.

NAME: Unknown

DESCRIPTION: She is a 28-year-old female.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Third Quarter, September 4, 1996

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea was rough.

DEPTH OF WATER: Waist- to chest-deep

TIME: Afternoon



NARRATIVE: She was lying on her board with her feet dangling in the water when she felt something grab her foot. She kicked her foot free and came to shore.

INJURY: She sustained small lacerations on her heel and puncture wounds and scratches on the sole of her foot.

TREATMENT: She was treated at Georgetown Memorial Hospital.

SPECIES: The woman did not see a shark and doctors were unable to confirm that the injuries were caused by a shark.

Attack in Ocean Puzzles Officials

Something in the water attacked a vacationer as she lounged in the ocean Sunday, but no one could say what. Or even if the woman had been bitten.

"Whatever it was was small in size," said waterfront director Duke Brown of the attack, which happened in Garden City Beach early Sunday afternoon.

According to Brown, a 28-year-old woman from Virginia was lying on a boogie board, her feet dangling in water between waist and chest deep, when she felt something grab at her foot.

The woman immediately kicked her foot free and came to shore. She was taken to Georgetown Memorial Hospital and treated for small lacerations on her heel and scrapes on the bottom of her foot.

But doctors could not determine what bit the woman, even though early reports indicated she'd been attacked by a shark. Brown said the incident left small puncture wounds and scratches on the woman's foot.

"Right after that the lifeguard service and beach patrol cleared the water for about 30 minutes for precautionary measures," Brown said. "During that time nothing was seen."

There were no other reports Sunday of shark or other fish sightings or related injuries.

With Hurricane Edouard stirring up seas this weekend, officials have been very cautious, especially on unincorporated beaches, Brown said.

He added that swimmers have been kept fairly close to shore because of the larger-than-normal waves.

"We've been real cautious around areas of rocks, seawalls and swashes," he said.

SOURCE: The Sun News (Myrtle Beach, South Carolina), Monday September 2, 1996, page 2C