



ACTIVITY: Wading

CASE: [GSAF 1999.09.16.R](#)

DATE: Reported September 16, 1999

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Cape Canaveral, Brevard County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Janet Ferguson

DESCRIPTION: She is a 61-year-old female from Morham, East Lothian, Scotland.

BACKGROUND

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: "Knee-deep"

NARRATIVE: Janet Ferguson waded into the sea to test the water before allowing her grandchildren to go swimming. "I felt this excruciating pain shooting along my thigh. At first I thought it was a large piece of driftwood that was digging into me, so I put my hand out to knock it away," she said. "I made contact with something that was moving along the back of my leg so I hit it hard and it seemed to move away."

Ferguson said that only when she walked out of the water to tell her husband, John, that her leg hurt that realized what had happened. "I shouted out that I had been bitten by something but he just told me to stop my blathering," she said.

INJURY: Ferguson's posterior thigh was bitten.

FIRST AID: Her daughter Gillian, a trained nurse who was also on the holiday with her husband Scott and their children Glen, four, and Kia, eight months, wrapped her mother's leg in a towel as lifeguards cleared the area.

TREATMENT: Paramedics transported Ferguson to a local hospital where the wound was repaired with 50 sutures.

SPECIES INVOLVED: It was speculated that a nurse shark may have collided with the woman. To illustrate the account of this incident, the media used images of a sandtiger shark (known as a grey nurse shark in parts of the world).

SOURCES: Evening News (Edinburgh, Scotland), The Birmingham Post (England), September 17, 1999