

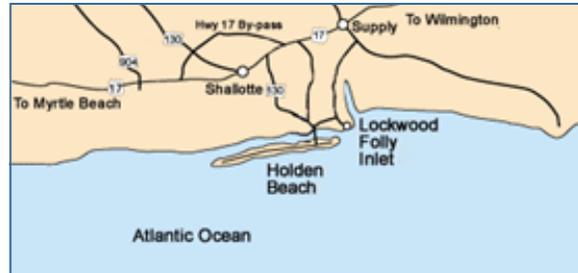
**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** GSAF 2000.07.16.b

**DATE:** Sunday July 16, 2000

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at West Holden Beach, Brunswick County, North Carolina, USA.

*34°N, 78.3°W*



**NAME:** Tim Poynter

**DESCRIPTION:** The surfer is a 14-year-old male from Amelia Island, Florida.

## **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** At West Holden Beach mean high tide occurred at 08h32, mean low tide at 16h36.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Holden Beach has a year-round population of fewer than a thousand residents, but every summer thousands of visitors rent homes on Holden Beach. The Poynter family has been coming to Holden Beach for summer vacations for the past 10 years. This year they rented an oceanfront house named "East of Eden".

**TIME:** Evening

**NARRATIVE:** Tim Poynter arrived with his family for a week-long beach vacation on the day before the incident. The shark bumped his board, and Tim started paddling – fast – toward shore. "Then I saw its mouth coming at my foot," Tim said. "It was scary, [the shark] followed me all the way to the beach. Another wave came and it swam off," he said.

**INJURY:** Minor injury. The surfer sustained three cuts to his foot (each about four to five inches in length), a puncture wound to his heel, and some other cuts to his toes.

**TREATMENT:** The surfer was taken to Brunswick Community Hospital in Supply where the injuries to his foot were sutured. He suffered no permanent damage and is expected to make a full recovery.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** About a dozen vacationers saw the shark from the shore. Witnesses described the shark as 1.8 metres [six feet in length], with a one-foot-tall dorsal fin. The shark was gray in color.

**SOURCES:** Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel, Monday July 17, 2000; Charlotte Observer, July 20, 2000, [http://Jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/071800/met\\_3568734.html](http://Jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/071800/met_3568734.html)

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Clay Creswell, GSAF

**'IT WAS SCARY'**

# Surfer at Holden Beach treated for shark bite

**By CECE von KOLNITZ**

*Staff Writer*

A shark sank its teeth into the foot of a 14-year-old surfer Sunday evening in the ocean off Holden Beach, he and witnesses told police.

Tim Poynter, whose weeklong beach vacation with his family started Saturday, will be going back to Amelia Island, Fla., with some painful memories.

Tim said the shark, described by

witnesses as a gray 6-footer with a 1-foot dorsal fin, bumped his surfboard first.

He started paddling as fast as he could toward the shore.

"Then I saw its mouth coming at my foot," Tim said Sunday night, as his foot was being prepared to be stitched at Brunswick Community Hospital in Supply.

"It was scary. It followed me all the way to the beach," he said.

*Please see SHARK on page 4A*

**4A** WILMINGTON MORNING STAF

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## Shark

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*Continued from page 1A*

The shark was briefly visible in shallow water, Tim said.

"Another wave came and it swam off," he said.

About a dozen other vacationers saw the shark from the shore, said Holden Beach Police Chief Jerry Wilson. Tim had three 4- to 5-inch cuts on his foot, a puncture wound in his heel and some other cuts on his toes, Chief Wilson said.

Every summer, thousands of visitors rent homes on Holden Beach, which has a year-round population of fewer than 1,000 residents.

The chief said in his 12 years in the town, he can't recall another time when someone was bitten by a shark.

The Poynter family had just read an article in a Florida newspaper about shark bites, said Tim's father, who is also named Tim. Mr. Poynter

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