

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: [GSAF 2000.09.10.b](#)

DATE: Sunday September 10, 2000

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean near Castaway Cove, Vero Beach, Indian River County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Unknown

DESCRIPTION: He is an eight-year-old male.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, September 12, 2000

TIME: 17h42

NARRATIVE: See press clipping.

INJURY: Minor injuries to arm and hand.

TREATMENT: Paramedics transported him to Indian River Memorial Hospital (1000 36th Street Vero Beach, FL 32960) for treatment.

SOURCE: Debbie Robinson, Fort Pierce Tribune, September 12, 2000; Stuart News, July 16, 2001



Boy hurt slightly by shark

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY -- Minor injuries suffered from shark bites -- like those reportedly suffered by an 8-year-old boy Sunday in the ocean near Vero Beach -- are not uncommon this time of year, says a local aquatic scientist.

The boy, who was not identified by emergency medical personnel, suffered minor injuries to his arm and hand about 5:42 p.m. while swimming in the ocean near Castaway Cove. Paramedics transported him to Indian River Memorial Hospital for treatment.

Minor shark bites in local ocean waters are not uncommon in September and October, said Grant Gilmore, an expert on sharks. "Every year there are five or six of these (shark bites) between Melbourne and Fort Pierce," Gilmore said.

Murky nearshore water caused by storms and plankton contribute to shark bites because swimmers can't see the sharks before they bump into them, Gilmore said. But most sharks have no interest in humans and will release the bite after they realize it's not a fish, he said.

The sharks most prevalent this time of year are the black-tipped and the sandbars, he said. The adult shark averages between 5 and 6 feet in length. They appear near shore this time of year to hunt among schools of small fish. Mullet, sardines and herrings are the dietary staples for these sharks, Gilmore said.

Gilmore's advice to swimmers is to stay alert and avoid swimming in areas where schools of small fish are prevalent. Water birds diving to grab small fish is a telltale sign that something bigger could be feeding below.

Most of the sharks seen this time of the year will have a dorsal fin and a tail that sticks out of the water. Fewer sharks are spotted near shore between November and January because the small fish have moved offshore to spawn and the sharks usually follow, he said.

"If you see a lot of fish, just don't go into the water there," Gilmore said.

SOURCE: Debbie Robinson, Fort Pierce Tribune, September 12, 2000