

ACTIVITY: Standing

CASE: [GSAF 2002.08.05](#)

DATE: Monday August 5, 2002

LOCATION: The attack took place in the Atlantic Ocean at the southern end of Topsail Beach in Pender County, North Carolina, USA.

NAME: Robert Pollan

DESCRIPTION: Pollan, a 14-year-old male, is from Wisconsin. He is 5'4" tall.



BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 10h56, New River MCAS recorded mostly cloudy skies and 7 mile visibility. The air temperatures was 86°F, dew point 72.0 F, humidity 63%, sea level pressure 30.06 inches, and wind direction was ENE at 10.4 mph.

MOON PHASE: Waning Crescent, 2% of the Moon is illuminated. The Moon was in its third quarter. New Moon, August 8, 2002.

SEA CONDITIONS: Mean high tide was at 16h51, low tide was at 10h05. The incident took place at the end of ebb tide.

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: Waist deep

TIME: 11h00

NARRATIVE: The Pollan family arrived in North Carolina the day before the incident for a family reunion. Robert was playing with other family members and a dog when he felt something nick his leg. He thought the dog had clawed him, until he saw blood in the water, flesh hanging from his leg and holes in his swim trunks. He walked to shore to family members.

INJURY: The teen's anterior thigh was bitten. Pediatric ER surgeon Tom Kayrouz, who happened to be vacationing with his family on the beach, examined the wound and described it as six to seven inches in circumference.

FIRST AID: Dr. Kayrouz provided first aid to the teen while waiting for emergency vehicles to arrive.

TREATMENT: The teen was transported to New Hanover County Regional Medical Center. In the ER some 33 sutures and staples were used to repair the injury, and he was released.

SPECIES INVOLVED: It was thought that a shark about 1.2 to 1.5 metres [four to five feet] total length was involved in this incident.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Clay Creswell, GSAF