

ACTIVITY: Standing
CASE: [GSAF 2005.07.01](#)
DATE: Friday July 1, 2005

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Gulf of Mexico at Boca Grande, on the south side of the island near the lighthouse at Gasparilla Island Beach in Lee County, Florida, USA.
26.8° N 82.3° W

NAME: Armin Trojer
DESCRIPTION: He is a 19-year-old male from Baden, Austria. He was visiting southwest Florida from Austria, along with his father.



BACKGROUND

WEATHER: There were scattered clouds and a west wind at 12 mph. The air temperature was 88°F and the humidity was 66%.

MOON PHASE: Last Quarter, June 28, 2005

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was dark brown and murky due to recent heavy rains, and underwater visibility was nil.

ENVIRONMENT: Part of the state beach already had been closed to protect sea turtle nests and nesting terns and skimmers.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 50 metres (another sources says 50 to 100 feet)

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: Chest-deep

TIME: 11h30

NARRATIVE: Trojer was standing in the water when he felt something grab his ankle and let go. He realized he was bleeding and started making his way to shore. His father helped him out of the water and onto the beach.

"People on the beach saw that he was in distress, but first they thought he was clowning around," said Jim Tucker, publisher of the weekly newspaper *The Boca Banner*. We are out there right now letting people know, notifying people on the beach about what happened," said Lee County Sheriff's office spokeswoman Ileana LiMarzi. The beach was not closed to swimmers, but a sheriff's helicopter was making regular flights along Lee County beaches, and no large number of sharks had been spotted, said sheriff's Deputy Angelo Vaughn.

INJURY: The shark made a single bite on the outer edge of the right ankle, according to Dr. Anthony Dalley, an emergency room physician. He reported that Trojer has "several large wounds which are fairly well defined, fairly jagged in nature and fairly deep, which would fit a shark bite. The cuts are five to seven inches deep."

FIRST AID: "A woman on the beach, who happened to be a nurse, saw him coming in and saw that he was limping badly and went out to assist him." Tucker headed for the beach from a nearby museum when someone came in to report the incident. He said Trojer was bitten on his right ankle, leaving his foot intact. The nurse "had to keep pressure on it," he

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said. "As soon as she took pressure off, it spurted." The teen remained conscious as paramedics tended to the bite and ran an intravenous line. "He was kind of shaken but not really in shock or anything," Tucker said. "He was talking. He was responding to questions."

The teen's father, Werner Trojer, also from Baden, Austria, stood by as the medical crew worked on his son on the beach near Amory Chapel at Gasparilla Island State Park and prepared him for the flight to the hospital. "He was calm," Tucker said of the father. "He was mostly just reassuring the kid, talking to him, keeping him calm."

TREATMENT: The teen was airlifted to Lee Memorial Hospital in Fort Myers, where hospital spokesperson Karen Krieger says he is in good condition. Lee Memorial Hospital is located at 2776 Cleveland Avenue, Ft. Myers, Fl. 33901, and the main phone number is (239) 332-1111. At the hospital, he was listed in good condition, hospital spokeswoman Pat Dolce said. LiMarzi also reported that his injuries were not life-threatening. Dr. Dalley reported thatd Trojer's prognosis is good, and he should have no problem walking again. He was scheduled to have surgery later the same day to repair torn ligaments and tendons.



View of the beach where Armin Trojer was swimming when his ankle was bitten by the shark. Note how close it is to Boca Pass, well known for its high population of sharks and swift currents.

SPECIES INVOLVED: LiMarzi said this is a confirmed attack. Trojer said that he did not see a shark, but someone else in the water apparently did. Paramedics also indicated the wound was consistent with a shark bite, she said.

SOURCES: 7KPLC, <http://www.kplctv.com/Global/story.asp?S=3546951>;
NBC2, <http://www.nbc-2.com/articles/article.asp?articleid=3750&z=3>
The News Press, <http://www.news-press.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050702/NEWS01/507020490/1075>

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Paramedics treat Austrian tourist Armin Trojer, 19, after a shark bit his right ankle while he was swimming in chest deep water off Gasparilla Island in Boca Grande, Fla., Friday July 1, 2005. Trojer's father, left with striped shirt, points to the area where he says his son was attacked. Trojer was airlifted by helicopter to Lee Memorial Hospital in Fort Myers, where he was in good condition, a hospital spokeswoman said. (AP Photo/Jim Tucker) (Jim Tucker - AP)