

ACTIVITY: Walking

CASE GSAF 2005.08.19

DATE: Friday August 19, 2005

LOCATION: The incident took place at Crystal Beach on the Bolivar Peninsula, Galveston County, Texas, USA. This is the same beach where Lydia Paulk was bitten by a shark on July 13, 2005, 38 days earlier.

Longitude: -94.63944 Latitude: 29.45694

NAME: Julian Elizondo

DESCRIPTION: He is a 12-year-old male from Seabrook, about 27 miles northwest of Galveston. He is 5'3" tall, weighs 160 pounds, and was wearing fluorescent green swim trunks with white spot-like markings. He wore no jewelry and had no injuries prior to the incident.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: It was a clear night.

MOON PHASE: Full Moon

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea temperature was 85° to 89°F. The water was choppy and visibility was zero. (The water in that area is usually murky; during the day "you cannot see your feet when standing in waist-deep water.")

ENVIRONMENT: On Galveston Island, Beach Patrol flew the blue flag over beaches Saturday, indicating a higher-than-normal level of marine life

in the water. Beach Patrol Assistant Director Peter Davis said the flags were flying not because of sharks, but because of reports of high numbers of cabbage-head jellyfish. Although no one was fishing at the time of the incident, a KHOU.com article by Wendell Edwards, 11 news reported that next day Mr. Boris Artega saw a shark about 50 feet from shore, and a fisherman who had his catch attached to his waist by a rope was grazed by a shark

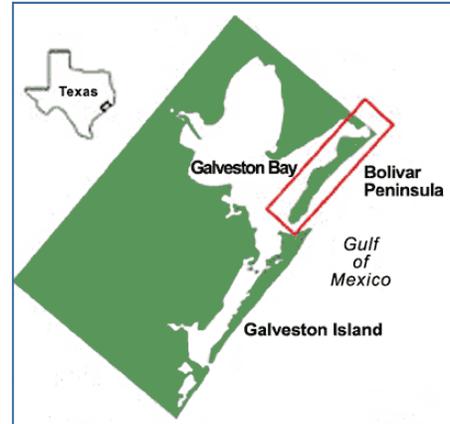
DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 15 to 20 yards

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: Knee-deep

TIME: Night, 22h00 (10 p.m.)

NARRATIVE: Julian Elizondo and two of his friends had just arrived at a resort house in Crystal Beach on Friday evening. Minutes later, Julian and his two friends, Cody Spivey and Dakota Beelot, went down to the beach to wade in the water. The three boys were walking in knee-deep water, one boy behind the other. They had been in the water for about ten minutes, when one of the mothers called for them to come in. The three boys turned towards shore and proceeded to come out of the water. One of the boys felt something bump him in the water. Then Julian felt the shark grab his foot from behind.

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Julian's foot was pulled out from under him, and he fell on his knees and hands. At first Julian thought it was his friends playing with him — until he saw them. Julian started screaming, and his two friends ran to the beach. Julian was screaming and hitting the water, he also hit the shark on what he thought was its nose, but the animal would not let go. Julian then reached down and pulled upward on what he thinks was the shark's nose. The shark released the boy's foot and swam off. Julian tried to run to shore, but when he tried to put weight on his left foot, he fell down.

INJURY: His left foot and ankle joint were bitten. Several tendons were severed, including the Achilles tendon. According to Julian, he felt no pain until 10 minutes after he was bitten.

FIRST AID: At the beach house, Julian's foot was wrapped in a t-shirt, and pressure was applied to the wounds by a Registered Nurse who was staying in the next house. Julian was taken by ambulance to the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, arriving there slightly more than an hour after he was bitten.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Based on tooth pattern and habitat, it is probable that a bull shark was involved in this incident.

TREATMENT: UTMB surgeons performed emergency surgery Friday night to repair damage to Julian's left foot and ankle joint. He is listed in fair condition.

SOURCES: KBTv4, <http://216.87.159.39/news/default.asp?mode=shownews&id=9289>
Houston Chronicle, <http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/metropolitan/3318732>
Click2Houston.com, <http://www.click2houston.com/news/4876769/detail.html>
Daily News (Galveston County),
<http://galvestondailynews.com/story.lasso?ewcd=f1d281f21a999d35>

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