

ACTIVITY: Fishing

CASE: **GSF 2006.07.23**

DATE: Sunday July 23, 2006

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Gulf of Mexico at Sargent Beach, Matagorda County, Texas, USA.

NAME: R.K. Halbert

DESCRIPTION: He is a male from Houston, Texas.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At noon, the wind kicked up out of the southwest.

MOON PHASE: Waning Crescent, 3% of the moon was illuminated.

ENVIRONMENT: Trout are fair to good on the south shoreline on red shad, morning glory and pepper/chartreuse Bass Assassins, Sand Eel Jrs. and chrome She Dogs. Redfish and black drum are good at Shell Island and Oyster Lake on live shrimp under a popping cork, reported Matagorda Fishing.

NARRATIVE: R.K Halbert was surf fishing. "I had the rod over my shoulder and I was dragging bait behind me. Probably smelled the bait, came from behind, smelled the bait and hit my foot," said Halbert, "He grabbed me, jerked me for a minute, pulled me backwards and then let go," said Halbert. "It felt like a bear trap closing in on my foot."

INJURY: Harbert was bitten twice just above his right ankle, sustaining puncture wounds.

DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT: The bite of the shark tore a hole in Halbert's wading bootie.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Immediately after he was bitten, Halbert was taken to a Lake Jackson Hospital where they dressed the wound, gave him antibiotics and sent him home. By Monday morning, an infection has caused his foot to swell and he was treated in the emergency room of the Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center in Houston.

Halbert's injury became infected, resulting in a slow recovery. Two and a half months after he was bitten by the shark, Halbert had undergone two surgical procedures to remove dead tissue, including 20 percent of one of his right calf muscles. Dr. Stacy Bacon, orthopedic surgeon, said, "[Halbert] had a bad injury to his Achilles tendon. A lot of dead muscle. So it's important to clean up the dead tissue and just to get it to heal. I don't think we're out of the woods yet."

Halbert said the injury has only slowed him down a bit. He said the experience won't stop him from surf fishing again, and blames himself for this accident. "Wasn't his fault it was my fault. You are no longer the top of the food chain when you're in the water," said Halbert.

SPECIES: The incident was thought to have involved a bull shark about four to five feet in length.

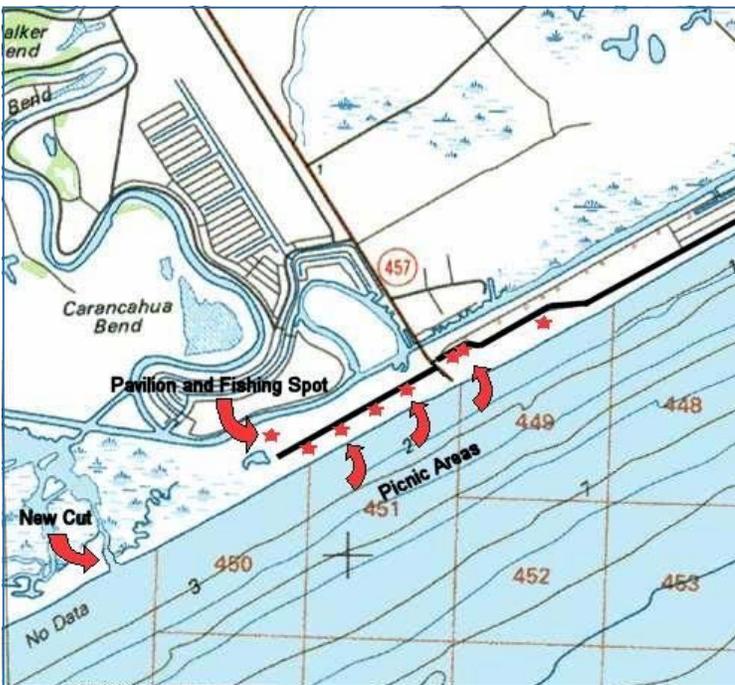
SOURCES: Wendell Edwards, 11 News, KHOU.com, July 26, 2006,
http://www.khou.com/news/local/stories/khou060726_mh_sharkbite.74bd905.html
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Sargent Beach, Texas



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