

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2006.09.16](#)

DATE: Saturday September 16, 2006

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Onslow Beach, Onslow County, North Carolina, USA.

34.7°N, 77.4°W

NAME: Jake Poland

DESCRIPTION: He is a 16-year-old male from Jacksonville, NC. He is six feet tall, weighs 180 lbs, and was wearing blue and white swim trunks and a light blue swim shirt. His surfboard leash was attached to his ankle; the ankle band was white, the leash was tan. He wore no jewelry and had no injuries prior to the incident.

SURFBOARD: The twin-fin board's upper surface was red / yellow, and its undersurface was a lighter shade of the same colors.



Don Bryan, The Daily

Jake Poland holds his shredded swim trunks

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 10h56, New River MCAS recorded scattered clouds and visibility of seven miles [11.3 km]. The air temperature was 73.9°F [23.3°C], dew point 63°F [17.2°C], humidity 68%, sea level pressure 30.07 inches [1018.2 hPa], and wind direction was North at 12.7 mph [20.4 km/h].

MOON PHASE: Waning Crescent, 30% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated. New Moon on September 22, 2006.

SEA CONDITIONS: One to two-foot swells.

ENVIRONMENT: "There are numerous sharks in the water, especially this time of year," said Paul Barrington, director of husbandry and operations for the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher. "Many have recently pupped in last few months. They are typically found in near-shore waters. Huge congregation of bait fishes, including mullet, are currently heading south to Florida and are hugging the beaches," Barrington said. "What will bring in those sharks is the abundance of the food fish, so being at swimming-depth water can put you in their path." The area where the incident took place is a relatively flat sandy beach. There is a pier approximately a mile to the south. No channel was present, nobody was fishing, and no unusual fish or bird activity was observed.

DEPTH OF WATER: Waist-deep

TIME: Between 11h00 and 11h30

NARRATIVE: Approximately 20 to 30 people were on the beach and there were a few surfers about 100 feet north of Jake Poland when the incident took place. Poland had just gotten off his surfboard and was facing shoreward, walking through the water, when he felt something hit him in the leg. "A wave came in and it felt like it knocked my board into my leg," he said. It wasn't until a friend pointed out that his swim trunks were shredded that he noticed the deep laceration to his left thigh.


A couple of surfers approx. 100' distant


Fishing Pier approx. one mile distant



Shark approached from the front, moving from shore to sea

Poland walked out of the water, while his two friends went to get help.

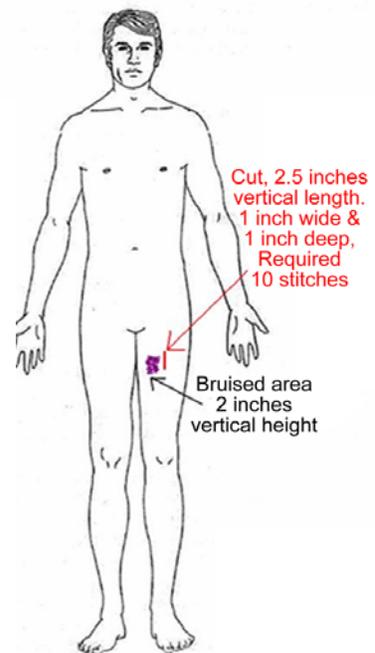
INJURY: The teen sustained a deep, jagged laceration to his anterior left thigh, in about the center of the thigh. The laceration was 2.5 inches long, one inch wide and one inch deep.

TREATMENT: Emergency room personnel at Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital stated the surfer sustained a shark bite. He spent about five hours in the hospital on Saturday and received about 10 stitches to close the wound. He was back in school on Monday.

SPECIES: Twila Poland, the teen's mother, said doctors at the hospital suspected Jake's bite was made by a shark two to three feet in length.

SOURCE: Chrissy Vick, The Daily News, Jacksonville, NC, September 19, 2006

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Clay Creswell, Global Shark Accident File.





Jake Poland's shorts

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