

ACTIVITY: Fishing

CASE: [GSAF 2007.03.14.R](#)

DATE: Reported March 14, 2007

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Delray Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, USA. 26.5°N, 80.1°W

NAME: Gregory Kuehlewind

DESCRIPTION: He is a male from Palm Beach County.

BACKGROUND

TIME: Afternoon

NARRATIVE: Gregory Kuehlewind and Andy Hurdman were kiteboarding when they noticed some sharks. They decided they wanted to catch one of them to determine the species. So, they jumped in a kayak, tossed some bait in the water, hooked one of the sharks and brought it to shore. Gregory was removing the hook from the shark's mouth when it clamped down on his hand. "To sum everything up it was a blur - one second you know the hook was almost out of the mouth and the next second my hand was almost entirely in the mouth," he said. "I felt where the teeth were in my hand pretty easily. They sunk all the way to the bone very quickly and the pressure was very continuous." On-lookers managed to pry open the shark's mouth with the handle of a net. Meanwhile, amateur videographer Jim Hefferan caught the whole thing on tape.

INJURY: Kuehlewind sustained minor lacerations on his right hand.

SPECIES: Not identified. The shark was about five feet in length, and was set free after biting the kiteboarder.

SOURCES: Bay News9, <http://www.baynews9.com/content/36/2007/3/14/230932.html>
Central Florida News 13; http://kutv.com/watercooler/watercooler_story_073151802.htm

NOTE: This is a provoked incident; it involved a hooked, landed, shark.



Gregory Kuehlewind



(AP) DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA In Delray Beach earlier in the week, Gregory Kuehlewind and his friend put away their kite boards and went in a kayak, looking for sharks. They knew the sharks would be in the shallow end. Gregory said he was interested to see what kind of sharks they were; he didn't want to hurt the shark, just do a catch and release.

Moments after throwing over some bait, Gregory caught one. It was five feet with a white under belly. He and his friend were being pulled by the shark, tossing in the waters; it finally tugged them to shore, where they overpowered it.

Thinking exhaustion had the better part of it, Gregory tried to pry the hook from its mouth. On the beach, in an instant, as you can see from someone who filmed it, the shark's jaw tightened on Gregory's hand. "I thought the shark might have been pretty well exhausted but I guess he wasn't. He was able to reach pretty good waves and snatch me up," he said.

People on the beach managed to come to Gregory's aid, quickly prying open the shark's mouth. "I mean there were a lot of teeth that were sunk in and really a lot of pressure," Gregory would recall. "It was pretty bloody and that was the only thing worrying me."

Later when Gregory and his friends talked about the incident and the consequences that could have resulted, he wondered why he put his hand inside its mouth in the first place.

