

**ACTIVITY:** Swimming

**CASE:** GSAF 2007.05.07.a

**DATE:** Monday May 7, 2007

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Gulf of Mexico at Naples Beach, Collier County, Florida, USA. 26.1°N, 81.8°W

**NAME:** Hans Pruss

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 68-year-old male, a tourist from Germany.

### BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** At 08h53, Naples recorded clear skies, visibility of 10 miles [16.1 km], and no rain. The air temperature was 72°F [22.2°C], dew point 55°F [12.8°C], humidity 55%, sea level pressure 29.98 inches [1015.0 hPa], and wind direction was NNE at 18.4 mph [29.6 km/h] with gusts to 27.6 mph [44.4 km/h].

**MOON PHASE:** Last Quarter, May 10, 2007.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The water was murky.

**ENVIRONMENT:** As the Gulf of Mexico warms above 70°F in the late spring, sharks and their prey meander from their winter feeding grounds in Florida Bay to Florida's west coast.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 100 yards

**TIME:** 08h30

**NARRATIVE:** Hans Pruss was swimming parallel to shore near the Edgewater Hotel [1901 Gulf Shore Boulevard North] when he felt something bump his leg. He reached shore unaided.

**INJURY:** The swimmer sustained a circular bite to his left thigh which extended from above his left knee to mid-thigh.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** Pruss walked about 100 yards north along the shore to the hotel where he and his family were staying. A worker at the hotel called 911, and the swimmer was taken to NCH Naples Downtown Hospital for treatment.

**SPECIES:** Not identified. The swimmer did not see the shark, but Naples Police believed his injury was caused by a six- to eight-foot shark.

**SOURCE:** Katy Bishop and Jeremy Cox, Naples News, May 10, 2007

