

ACTIVITY: Snorkeling

CASE: **GSF 2007.09.13**

DATE: Thursday September 13, 2007

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Broward County, Florida, USA.

26.1883°N, 80.0933°W

NAME: Brandon Chapman

DESCRIPTION: He is a 14-year-old male from Oakland Park.



BACKGROUND

WEATHER: It was a partly sunny day with isolated thunderstorms in the morning, and Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph becoming East 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon. At 15h53, Fort Lauderdale recorded scattered clouds and visibility of 10 miles. The air temperature was 89.1°F [31.7°C], dew point 71.1°F [21.7°C], humidity 55%, sea level pressure 29.99 in [1015.6 hPa], and wind direction was East at 15 mph [16.1 km/h].

MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 6% of the Moon is illuminated; New Moon, September 11, 2007

ENVIRONMENT: Anglin's Fishing Pier – 2 Commercial Blvd. and A1A (Lauderdale-by-the-Sea) The pier was initially built in 1941 by the city's founding father and first mayor. It has been rebuilt three times since. Today, it extends 800 feet into the Atlantic Ocean and is near a coral reef approximately halfway out acknowledged as the closest reef to the shoreline in the continental United States. The beach has no lifeguards.

SEA CONDITIONS: The seas were calm to moderate, water temperature was 85°F, and mean low tide occurred at 16h04.

DEPTH OF WATER: 10 to 15 feet

TIME: 16h00



Brendan Chapman (left) and his cousin

Sun-Sentinel

NARRATIVE: Brendan Chapman and his cousin were snorkeling north of the Anglin Fishing Pier at 2 Commercial Boulevard when he saw the shark on the bottom tangled in fishing line. The boy freed the shark and brought it to the surface. As he placed the shark underwater and released it, the shark latched onto his abdomen. Brendan's cousin assisted him to shore and as Brendan started walking out of the water with the shark still hanging on, dozens of people gathered around. Some high school kids who recognized him tried to get the shark off by poking its eyes, jabbing its gills and prying its jaw. Someone on the fishing pier called the police about a shark attack. When fire-rescue personnel arrived they walked

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ten feet into the ocean to Brendan, who was standing in three feet of water holding the shark. Fire Rescue Lt. Rob Melendez punched the shark's snout and it released its grip. "The shark was tossed back into the ocean and quickly swam away," the Sheriff's Office said.

INJURY: The injury consisted of numerous shallow scratches to the torso to the left of the navel.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: The teen was transported to Broward General Medical Center where he was treated and released. His wounds did not require stitches.



SPECIES: The incident involved a two-foot nurse shark, two to three feet in length. By the next day, press reports said the shark was three to four feet in length. This incident is not an "attack"; it is, at best, an interaction. The shark was frightened and in its panic, struck out at its rescuer.

SOURCES: Hannah Sampson, Miami Herald, September 13 & 14, 2007; CBS4; Sun-Sentinel, September 14, 2007.

