

ACTIVITY: Body surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2008.06.01.b](#)

DATE: Sunday June 1, 2008

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Cherry Grove, Horry County, South Carolina, USA. 33°50.1'N, 78°38.0'W

NAME: Madi Taff

DESCRIPTION: She is a 15-year-old female from Brentwood, Tennessee. She is 5'2" tall, weighs 95 pounds, and was wearing a multi-colored bathing suit. She wore no jewelry and had no injuries prior to the accident.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 18h53, North Myrtle Beach recorded clear skies and visibility of 8 miles [12.9 km]. The air temperature was 81°F [27.2°C], dew point 73°F [22.8°C], humidity 77%, sea level pressure 29.86 inches [1010.9 hPa], and wind direction was SW at 11.5 mph [18.5 km/h].

MOON PHASE: New Moon, June 3, 2008

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea was calm but the water was brown, estimated underwater visibility was 12 inches. The water temperature was 70°F (estimated), and the current was flowing South-to-North. The incident took place about 19 minutes before mean high tide. No channel was present.

ENVIRONMENT: No unusual bird or fish activity was observed, and no dolphins were seen. However, there was fishing activity in the vicinity of the accident site, but it is not known what species were being caught.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 15 yards

DISTANCE FROM ROCKS OR PIER: 100 yards

DEPTH OF WATER: Three feet (waist-deep)

TIME: 18h30

NARRATIVE: There were about 25 people on the beach but only Madi and her little sister were in the water. They were body surfing on the North side of Cherry Grove Pier when the incident took place. At first, the teen thought she hit her leg on a rock or was bitten by a large crab.

INJURY: Lacerations to left foot and ankle.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: The teen was rushed to the life guard station where Monty Reed and Elijah Wells administered first aid, then she was taken to Sea Coast Medical Center where her wounds were closed with 16 stitches. The stitches were removed on Sunday June 15, 2008, and recovery was uneventful.

SPECIES: Judging by the bite, doctors said the shark was about five feet in length. Photographs indicate the shark had serrated teeth in its upper jaw and smooth-edged



Madi Taff

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grasping teeth in its lower jaw. Lifeguards who protect that stretch of beach where the incident took place said the teen was probably bitten by a sandbar or a blacktip shark.

SOURCES: Interview with Monty Reed; <http://www.wsmv.com/news/16618659/detail.html#>