

ACTIVITY: Jumping

CASE: GSAF 2009.07.22.b

DATE: Wednesday July 22, 2009

LOCATION: The accident took place in the Atlantic Ocean near the 400 block of Ocean Boulevard West, Holden Beach, Brunswick County, North Carolina, USA.

NAME: Julia Anne Mittleberg

DESCRIPTION: She is a 26-year-old female from Morton, Illinois. She is 5'5" tall and weighs 190 pounds. She was

wearing a black and white Tankini swimsuit and black bottoms, a silver ring on right hand and small silver earrings. Her menstrual period ended on July 20, 2009. She wore a black leash on her right wrist.

BOARD: A 2.5- to 3-foot boogie board. The upper surface was blue and yellow, the undersurface was white.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 15h00, Southport recorded mostly cloudy skies and visibility of 10 miles. The air temperature was 78.8°F, dew point 71.6°F, humidity 78%, sea level pressure 30.07 inches, and wind direction was ESE at 3.5 mph.

MOON PHASE: New Moon, July 21, 2009

ENVIRONMENT: The accident took place about 1,000 feet to the north of Holden Beach pier.

DEPTH OF WATER: Three to four feet ("Waist to chest-deep")

TIME: 15h00

NARRATIVE: Julia was in the water with her mother and cousin. She had been in the water 30 or 40 minutes and was jumping in the waves, facing seaward and waiting for a wave to body surf with boogie board. The shark approached from her left (from the north). "All of a sudden I felt something grab me and then chomp down on my left foot a second time," she said. "It happened so fast!! All I thought was 'What? Those were teeth! run away, get everyone away!' I kicked at it and screamed to my mom and cousin that something bit me." The shark disappeared when Julia kicked it.

INJURY: Lacerations and puncture wounds to left foot and ankle.

FIRST AID: "We got up to the beach where the sand was still wet but not in water and I laid down on a boogie board to get my foot up in the air," remembers Julia. "By that time someone had gotten a beach towel and a few people had come to see what happened and help out. One lady (Molly) was a huge help in getting everyone organized and keeping me



safe. They had someone call 911 and others go get ice and clean towels. They were putting pressure on my foot through the towel. Eventually a volunteer fire fighter came and had gloves and gauze. They were able to stop the bleeding pretty quickly, so then Molly and others helping could then really assess my wounds and wrap them up after having gloves.

“During this time the tide was starting to come in so they needed to move me further up the beach, so a bunch of men and Molly, her friend, and my aunt carried me a long ways up the beach to where the paramedics were going to be bringing a chair and stretcher.

“The paramedics had a rolling chair thingy and they had to have me stand up and get in the chair. As soon as I was in the chair I told them I wasn't feeling good and was gonna pass out. Sure enough not 10 seconds later I fainted in the chair.”

TREATMENT: Julia was transported by ambulance to Brunswick County Community Hospital in Supply, arriving there 45 minutes after she was bitten by the shark. At the hospital, her wounds were sutured by Dr. Dr. William Sherrod. After seven hours at the hospital, she was discharged.

SPECIES: Not identified.

SOURCE: Julia Anne Mittleberg

NOTE: The shark approached from the north which suggests that it may have been following a scent trail from the pier and Julia's foot was simply in its path.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Clay Creswell, Global Shark Accident File