



ACTIVITY: Wading

CASE: [GSAF 2009.11.24](#)

DATE: Tuesday November 24, 2009

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean about a half mile south of Lori Wilson Park, 1500 N Atlantic Avenue in Cocoa Beach, Brevard County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Garrett Gollihugh

DESCRIPTION: He is a 10-year-old male from Columbus, Ohio.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 51% of the Moon was illuminated.

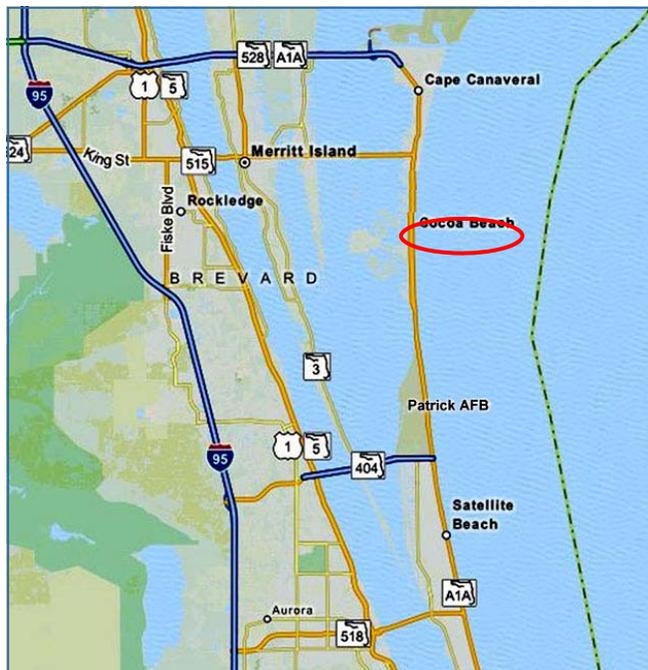
ENVIRONMENT: Lori Wilson Park is south of the Cocoa Beach Fishing Pier. Witnesses said a nearby fishing boat was dropping bait in the water, which may have attracted the shark.

DISANCE FROM SHORE: 15 feet

DEPTH OF WATER: Waist-deep.

TIME: Morning.

NARRATIVE: Garrett Gollihugh was in the water with his 12-year-old sister, Hannah. "I was on my knees in waist-high water, just floating around and going underwater, when I felt something bite me" he said. "And then it let me go and then bit me again. It hung on a little bit and shook my foot so I got out of the water and screamed 'shark'". Garret managed to get back to shore on his own.



Lori Wilson Park

His father, Gary, was about 15 feet away when Garrett was bitten. "It was a blood-curdling scream," he said. "I originally thought it was a jellyfish. But he had the presence of mind to yell, 'Shark.' There were a lot of people there."

INJURY: The boy sustained 14 puncture wounds from the shark's teeth around his left ankle and toes. There was no nerve damage.

FIRST AID: "His dad got him down on the ground, put the pressure on his foot," said witness Mary Jo Wyville. "Somebody yelled for everybody else to get out of the water."

TREATMENT: The boy was taken by ambulance to Cape Canaveral Hospital for treatment of non life-threatening injuries.

SPECIES: According to the medical staff who treated the boy, the injuries suggest a shark about six feet in length was involved.

SOURCES: My Fox Orlando, November 24, 2009,
http://www.myfoxorlando.com/dpp/news/brevard_news/112409-boy-bit-by-shark
Florida Today, November 25, 2009;
<http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20091125/BREAKINGNEWS/91125003/1006/NEWS01/Shark+bite+spoils+birthday+boy+s+beach+visit>



Cocoa Beach Fishing Pier



Photo: Rik Jesse, Florida Today

Incident site