

ACTIVITY: Jet skiing

CASE: GSAF 2011.06.21

DATE: Tuesday, June 21, 2011

LOCATION: The accident took place in the Gulf of Mexico off the Flora-Bama Lounge*, Perdido Key, Escambia County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Tyler McConnell

DESCRIPTION: He is a 20-year-old male from Shreveport, Louisiana.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 67% of the Moon was illuminated.

ENVIRONMENT: Reports say the man was bitten off the Flora-Bama bar, but some say he was in Florida waters when he was bitten, while his family says it occurred in Alabama waters. (see map at right).

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 500 yards

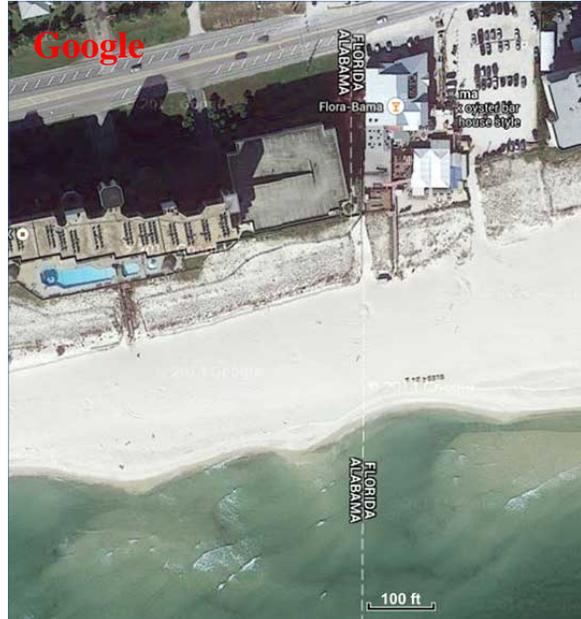
TIME: Afternoon

NARRATIVE: “He hit something, whether it was a wave or the shark itself, it knocked him off, and it happened immediately,” said his sister, Ashley McConnell. Tyler swam back to his ski and remounted it. The rental crew noticed McConnell had fallen off the watercraft. When he got back on, he laid down backwards. The crew went out and picked him up and brought him to shore.

INJURY: Severe damage to his ankle and tendons in his foot.

TREATMENT: The next thing I know,” said Ashley, “we’re on the beach and he’s laying down under an umbrella. ... An ex-military person (Ryan Price-Williams) was there and applied pressure to the major artery in his leg, and elevated his foot. We put a shirt around the wound. I put my swimsuit cover around it. That’s how we kept him from bleeding out.” She said her brother made jokes while waiting for the helicopter that life-flighted him to the hospital and asked her to make sure she got a good picture of the wound. He was airlifted to Baptist Hospital in Pensacola where he was admitted and his injury was surgically repaired.

SPECIES: Although this incident was originally reported by Orange Beach (Alabama) as a



barracuda bite, it involved a bull shark.

SOURCES: Press-Register, June 21, 2011,
http://blog.al.com/live/2011/06/shark_not_a_fish_bit_jet-ski_r.html

WKRG.com, 5 News, June 22, 2011, http://www.wkrg.com/alabama/article/shark-bites-jet-skier-in-orange-beach/1207771/Jun-22-2011_6-09-pm/

KTBS.com, June 23, 2011, <http://www.ktbs.com/news/28336351/detail.html>