



**ACTIVITY:** Standing

**CASE:** [GSAF 2013.09.25](#)

**DATE:** Wednesday September 25, 2013

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Gulf of Mexico at Beach Access 16, 7817 Surf Drive in Panama City, Bay County, Florida, USA.

**NAME:** Ethan Hand

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a seven-year-old male from Smyrna, Georgia.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** At 10h13, Panama City Tyndall AFB recorded scattered clouds and 10-mile visibility. The air temperature was 78.8°F, dew point 75.2°F, humidity 89%, sea level pressure 29.82 inches and wind direction was ENE at 5.8 mph.

**MOON PHASE:** Waning Gibbous, 64% of the Moon was illuminated. Last Quarter, September 26, 2013.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** Five to six feet

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Ankle deep

**TIME:** Shortly before 10h30



**NARRATIVE:** "My son had just gotten in the water and was about ankle deep," said Emily Morrell, a nurse at Cherokee Northside hospital in Canton, Georgia. "He started yelling and crying. Ethan ran out of the water screaming saying he had been bitten by a shark."

**INJURY:** Tissue was removed from the outer aspect of the ankle and there were two puncture wounds on the inner aspect of the ankle.

**FIRST AID:** His mother grabbed him and we took him up to the walkway and used direct pressure to control the blood loss. EMS arrived and transported Ethan to Bay Medical Center/Sacred Heart where plastic surgeons sutured his injuries. The boy was discharged later the same afternoon.

**SPECIES:** According to doctors who treated the boy at Bay Medical Center, the injury is consistent with those made by a small hammerhead or a nurse shark.

**SOURCES:** WMBB-TV, September 25, 2013; <http://www.wmbb.com/story/23531737/boy-gets-suspected-shark-bite-while-wading-in-the-gulf>  
WSBTV-2 Atlanta, September 26, 2013, <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/news/local/cobb-county-boy-recovers-shark-bite/nZ8ZP/>