



ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: [GSAF 2014.05.06](#)

DATE: Tuesday May 6, 2014

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Coligny Beach on Hilton Head Island, Beaufort County, South Carolina, USA.

NAME: Kimberly Popp

DESCRIPTION: She is a 40-year-old female from Mooresville, Iredell County, North Carolina. She is 5'2½", weighs 150 lbs, and was wearing a tankini swimsuit (green top with black bottoms). She wore no jewelry and was not menstruating at the time of the attack.



Kimberly Popp

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 13h50, Hilton Head Island recorded clear skies and 10 mile visibility. The air temperature was 89.6°F, heat index 88.9°F, dew point 59°F, humidity 36%, sea level pressure 29.99 inches (falling), and wind direction was West at 11.5 mph.

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, May 6, 2014

SEA CONDITIONS: Mean high tide took place at 14h04.

ENVIRONMENT: Coligny Beach is located at Coligny Circle at Pope Avenue and South Forest Beach Drive. It is Hilton Head Island's most popular beach. Fire marshal Joheida Fister said that witnesses reported seeing a shark in the water Tuesday, although the beach patrol's incident report made no mention of a shark. "That would usually be in the report," said Mike Wagner, operations manager for Shore Beach Service. "But if something bit somebody underwater, the odds of anyone seeing what it was aren't very good. You wouldn't have to be in very deep water not to see something." Popp's husband, Jim, had noticed large pods of dolphins and squadrons of pelicans earlier in the day, which may have been an indication that there were sharks in the water. The incident took place 30 to 40 feet

inshore of sandbar.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: Eight to 10 feet

DEPTH OF WATER: Knee-deep

TIME: Shortly before 15h00

NARRATIVE: She was in the water 10 to 15 minutes with her son and a four-year-old daughter and was facing shoreward when she felt something thump against her left foot and clamp down. She lifted her leg out of the water, bringing with it a shark. "I looked right at him and punched it in the nose. I don't know how I kept my composure other than that. I just knew I wanted to get my kids out of the water." She ran from the water, screaming to alert nearby beachgoers, several of whom later told her they saw the animal's fin and tail.

INJURY: The swimmer sustained a deep gash near her ankle and deep slices across her sole. She felt no pain until she reached the beach.

TREATMENT: Beach Patrol personnel provided first aid. Hilton Head Island Fire & Rescue Division EMS arrived and the patient was transported by ambulance to Hilton Head Hospital, arriving at the hospital 25 minutes after she was bitten. Her injury was repaired with 14 sutures.

SPECIES: According to the woman, the shark was four- to five-feet in length, blue and white, as wide as her shoulders and taller than her 6-year-old son.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Clay Creswell, GSAF