



ACTIVITY: Spearfishing / Free diving

CASE: [GSAF 2014.06.25](#)

DATE: Wednesday June 25, 2014

LOCATION: Abaco, Bahamas

26°47'10.9"N, 77°19'20.5"W

NAME: Mark Adams

DESCRIPTION: He is a 42-year-old male. He is 6'3", weighs 210 lbs and was wearing navy blue swim shorts, a grey swim shirt and yellow glove, black mask and fins. and was carrying an eight-foot AB Biller Pole Spear. He wore no jewelry and had no injuries prior to the incident.

SUPPORT BOAT: A 22' center-console white-hulled boat

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sky was partly cloudy. At 13h00, Nassau, Bahamas recorded 6.2-mile visibility, air temperature of 84.2°F, dewpoint 75.2°F, humidity 74%, sea level pressure 30.15 inches (falling) and wind direction was SE at 4.6 mph with gusts of 16.1 mph, and was experiencing a thunderstorm.

MOON PHASE: Waning Crescent, 3% of the Moon was illuminated. New Moon, June 27, 2014.

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea was very clear and the surface was calm.

ENVIRONMENT: Two dolphins were observed an hour prior to the incident. "Two people saw a fin over the reef out of the water prior to anchoring but when I saw the two dolphin swimming I thought they had mistaken a shark fin for a dolphin fin," said Adams. The

incident took place over a sand bottom.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: A half-mile

DISTANCE FROM REEF: 30 feet

DISTANCE FROM BOAT: 15 feet

DEPTH OF WATER AT SITE: 23-25 feet

TIME: 13h00

NARRATIVE: Five swimmers were in the water 70 to 100 yards away from the boat, but no one else was nearby. Mark Adams had been in the water 45 minutes and had already speared fish and taken them to the boat. He relates what happened then:

I took a grouper with a pole spear when a shark came out of nowhere on my left side at a tremendous rate of speed and turned off. I dropped the spear which immediately sank with grouper still attached over the sand bottom. It immediately circled back and I expected it to feast on the grouper below and in front of me, but it came right back at me. I lifted my knees to my chest and tried to protect my body with my feet/fins. It's momentum pushed me back and, with it's mouth was under its nose, it was unsuccessful in landing a bite. It happened incredibly fast, I pushed/kicked it with my feet and it circled off in the same direction it did the first time.

I had a puncture proof glove on my left hand and I took it off and tried to throw it out in front of me underwater. I was pretty panicked at that point and have no idea why I did that. It didn't go very far but I had time for two or three kick paddles before I put my feet back up in front of me to protect myself. The shark inhaled the glove and shook it head from side to side and it came out of its mouth. It turned off again briefly and the glove was slowly sinking and it inhaled the glove again.

At this point I decided to make a break for the boat, turned and swam freestyle to the swim ladder. The short sprint was really intense because I could no longer see the shark and was expecting to be bit at any second. Got in the boat and started the engines, I couldn't locate the shark anymore from the boat, he must have gone after the grouper at this point because the spear/grouper was gone. A few friends from other boats came over and we drove around looking for it but never found it. We did retrieve the glove which was right by the boat."

I had an incident 6 or 7 years ago in the Abacos where the fish came off my spear and was taken by a group of sharks (5 or 6) but they showed no interest in me what so ever. When this shark came at me I dropped the spear immediately and I assumed that would be the end of it but he completely ignored the grouper that was flopping on the bottom and just kept coming at me. It must have taken the grouper when I was getting in the boat b/c I looked for the shark once I got in and did not see him & it must have traveled somewhat of a distance with the spear and grouper because we had 4 or 5 boats help look for it & never found it.

INJURY: The diver was not injured by the shark, but lost his spear.

SPECIES: The incident involved a seven to eight foot Caribbean reef shark.

SOURCE: Mark Adams