

ACTIVITY: Fishing for sharks

CASE: [GSAF 2014.08.25.R](#)

DATE: Reported August 25, 2014

LOCATION: The incident took place near Apalachicola Bay in the Florida panhandle, USA.

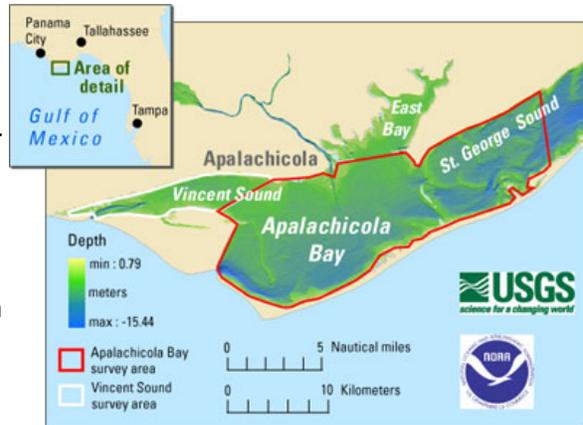
NAME: John Wiley

DESCRIPTION: He is an angler from North Georgia.

BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT: Apalachicola Bay is an estuary and lagoon located on the northwest coast of Florida.

NARRATIVE: Wiley had captured a small shark. On larger sharks, Wiley and Butler always use what's called a tail rope, a heavy rope noosed around the shark's tail to help bring the fish into the boat, which also helps the anglers control the fish. In this case, however, Wiley decided this shark wasn't quite large enough to warrant a tail rope.



John Wiley

"That was the breakdown," Wiley said. "And when I got him on board, I never got his head pinned down. It's kind of like handling a rattlesnake. It's a bit of a rodeo until you get them pinned down."

As Wiley was trying to pin the shark's head as he has done hundreds of times before, the fish whipped its body around 180 degrees and slashed his forearm. It all happened in a matter of seconds," Wiley said. "But I sort of saw it coming and was pulling my arm away when his teeth caught the top of my arm.

INJURY: Lacerations to left forearm.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: "Surprisingly, there was not a lot of pain through the whole thing," said Wiley. "I'm not sure if nerves were damaged or what. I just know that it's the worst injury I've ever had, but it hurt the least." It took an hour and a half to get off the water and to an emergency room where the injury was repaired with 60 stitches and staples

SPECIES: The incident involved a small bull shark about 4.5 feet in length.

NOTE: This was a provoked incident; it involved a hooked shark.