



**ACTIVITY:** Swimming

**CASE:** [GSAF 2015.07.01](#)

**DATE:** Wednesday July 1, 2015

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean opposite the Lifeguard Station on Lifeguard Beach, National Park Service Day Use Area, Ocracoke Island, Hyde County, North Carolina, USA.  
*35°06'22.60"N, 75°57'03.99"W*



*Andrew Costello*

**NAME:** Andrew Costello

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 67-year-old male from Wareham, Massachusetts, the former Editor-in-Chief of the Boston Herald newspaper from 1994 to 2004.

### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** At 11h56, KHSE reported partly cloudy skies with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. The air temperature was 81°F, heat index 85.2°F which soared higher as the afternoon wore on, dew point 72°F, humidity 74% and remained high until ery high from 10h00 to 16h00, sea level pressure 29.98 inches (a surf report says 29.93 inches), and wind direction was WSW at 6 to 15 mph.

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The sea surface temperature was 81°F and mean low tide occurred at 13h15, mean high tide at 19h56. Surf height at Ocracoke was two to three feet, with strong rip currents, swift longshore currents and pounding shore break

**ENVIRONMENT:** Ocracoke Island is bordered on the west by Pamlico Sound and on the east by the Atlantic Ocean. All of the ocean beach is owned by the National Park Service, but only one beach has a lifeguard. The area has numerous shallow sand bars and channels. Avon Pier reports lots of croakers being caught off the pier, some bluefish, and fisherman report Spanish mackerel were running.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 25 to 30 feet

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Waist deep

**TIME:** 12h10

**NARRATIVE:** Andrew Costello was swimming with his adult son outside the first breaker directly in front of the lifeguard stand, when he encountered the shark. He said he bumped into the shark and that's when the shark bit him and pulled him under. A lifeguard on the beach saw the shark pull the man under the water. Costello was able to swim close to shore where lifeguards helped him out of the water.

**INJURIES:** The patient sustained injuries to his left torso around his rib cage, hip (the most significant injury), lower leg and both hands.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** A doctor who happened to be in the area provided first aid on the beach until the patient was stabilized said Justin Gibbs of Hyde County EMS. After 20 minutes the patient was carried off the sand and beyond the dunes to a road. He was alert and in stable condition when he was airlifted by helicopter to Vidant Medical Center in Greenville, North Carolina. The next day Dr. Eric Toschlog, Chief of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery at Vidant Medical Center, reported that the patient had been upgraded to good condition but would need several operations. "

**SPECIES:** Not identified, but the shark was said to be gray in color and six to seven feet in length.

**SOURCES:** ABC News, July 1, 2015

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/man-airlifted-hospital-7th-reported-shark-attack-north/story?id=32159382>

USA Today, July 1, 2015

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/07/01/shark-attack-north-carolina/29574249/>

Fox News, July 1, 2015

<http://myfox8.com/2015/07/01/shark-attack-reported-at-ocracoke-island-in-nc/>

The Virginian Pilot (Pilot Online) July 1, 2015

<http://hamptonroads.com/2015/07/shark-attack-reported-ocracoke-island>

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Clay Creswell, Global Shark Accident File