



**ACTIVITY:** Swimming

**CASE:** [GSAF 2016.05.21.b](#)

**DATE:** Saturday May 21, 2016

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in Tampa Bay off downtown St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida, USA.

$27^{\circ}45'13.36''N$ ,  $82^{\circ}34'35.86''W$

**NAME:** Krystal Magee

**DESCRIPTION:** A 22-year-old female from Tampa.



## BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** At 17h53, St Petersburg recorded clear skies and 10-mile visibility. The air temperature was 82.9°F, heat index 85.4°F, dew point 66.9°F, humidity 58%, sea level pressure 29.95 inches and wind direction was NW at 13.8 mph.

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The water was murky.

**ENVIRONMENT:** On May 19, Big Pier 60 in Clearwater recorded sea surface temperature of 81.7°F, up 3.5 degrees from the previous week. Lots of Spanish mackerel had been every morning with a few flounder and both snook and trout were released at night. A few bonnethead and blacktip sharks were also caught.

Eric Hovland, a curator and shark expert at The Florida Aquarium, says this incident speaks to the health of the Bay. "We are seeing everything from scallops to sharks making a comeback in the Bay," said Hovland. "It is the time of year when sharks are coming in, be they bulls, sharp

nose or a variety of sharks in our Gulf and Tampa Bay waters.” He added the conditions are perfect for breeding and for pup sharks to survive. “It is a feeding ground for the young pups that are maybe a half a meter long. They are looking for small bait fish,” he explained.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** Three miles

**DEPTH OF WATER:** 19 feet, estimated

**TIME:** 18h00

**NARRATIVE:** Krystal Magee was sailing with her parents, two sisters, brother-in-law and friends. Around 17h30, they decided to stop and get in the water. “We were jumping in, jumping off the boat, on the paddleboard, doing our thing and didn’t really expect it to happen,” Magee explained. They decided to call it a day after about 30 minutes. Magee had started to swim back to the boat when she felt something nip her toes. “Something touched my foot...It came up from under and bit,” said Magee. Then the shark bit her ankle. Her brother-in-law scooped her up and put her on a buoy, her sister jumped into the water to help get her back to the boat and her parents then pulled her into the boat.

**INJURIES:** Puncture wounds and laceration to left foot and ankle.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** Magee’s father applied direct pressure to the injury to control blood loss. The family called the Coast Guard and raced towards shore. A rescue helicopter was dispatched but the family reached the marina before it arrived. Paramedics transported the patient by ambulance to Bayfront Hospital. Doctors initially repaired the injuries with 27 sutures. Three days later the patient underwent surgery to repair torn muscle and two tendons.

**SPECIES:** Magee's family recalls seeing a four to five foot shadow in the water after she was bitten. It was thought the incident involved a juvenile bull shark.

**SOURCES:** ABC Action News, June 15, 2016

<http://www.abcactionnews.com/news/region-tampa/a-22-year-old-tampa-woman-has-undergone-surgery-to-repair-her-left-leg-she-was-bit-y-shark-in-bay>

10 News, June 16, 2016

<http://www.wtsp.com/news/local/woman-bit-by-shark-in-tampa-bay/246106952>



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