

**ACTIVITY:** Playing with a Frisbee

**CASE:** GSAF 1968.08.24

**DATE:** Sunday August 24, 1968

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean a half mile north of the Juno Beach Pier (located at Juno Beach Park), Palm Beach County, Florida, USA.

**NAMES:** Colleen and Sean Chamberlin

**DESCRIPTION:** Nine-year-old Colleen and 12-year-old Sean were both wearing bright Hawaiian-print swim suits. The children were playing with a bright blue (almost fluorescent) Frisbee.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** The air temperature was 90°F.

**MOON PHASE:** New Moon, August 23, 1968

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The sea was clear and calm. There were no ground swells and the temperature was thought to be about 85°F.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 50 to 60 feet

**DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE:** Colleen was in shoulder-deep water.

**TIME:** 16h00

**NARRATIVE:** Colleen and Sean were playing Frisbee in the shallows, throwing the disk back and forth between them. Suddenly, Colleen felt two distinct bumps on her leg. As she looked down into the water, she saw a small hammerhead shark. She screamed and swam towards shore. The shark then swam toward Sean who dropped the Frisbee and started swimming seawards. The shark followed him a short distance, nudged him, then directed its attention at the Frisbee which was floating in a northward direction. Sean continued swimming seawards, but finally turned and returned to the beach without incident. The Frisbee continued to float northwards, the shark following and nudging it.

**INJURY:** No injury.

**EQUIPMENT DAMAGE:** The Frisbee was not recovered.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** The incident was reported to involve a small hammerhead shark.

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Morris Vorenberg, Global Shark Accident File

