

**ACTIVITY:** Sitting  
**CASE:** **GSF 1988.06.09**  
**DATE:** Thursday June 9, 1988  
**LOCATION:** The attack took place in front of the Sea Pines Club at Hilton Head Island.

**NAME:** Mark Dotter  
**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 37-year-old male from Crestwood, Missouri.

**BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** New Moon, June 14, 1988  
**DEPTH OF WATER:** Knee-deep or waist deep  
**TIME:** Just after 16h00



**NARRATIVE:** He was sitting in the water with his two daughters when he “saw a fin circling him,” according to Lewis Blanchard, Rescue Squad director. Dotter screamed for help and tried to get back to the beach after being bitten. Bystanders though he was joking. “He was screaming, ‘Help me, I’ve been bitten by a shark’ – he sounded like he was kidding said witness Gloria Rentschler. The man shouted for help three times, “then we saw the blood in the water,” said Bobsy Grimes. Lifeguards carried Dotter to shore, but “he was more concerned about his child” than himself, they said. The child was not injured.

**INJURY:** Dotter was bitten three times on the lower left leg by a shark. Tendons were severed and the calf muscle was severely damaged.

**FIRST AID:** First aid was administered by the Hilton Head Rescue Squad. The Squad cleared the beach for two miles. Warning flags were placed along the stretch, barring people from entering the water for two hours, Blanchard said.

**TREATMENT:** Dotter was admitted to Hilton Head Hospital.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Reported to involve a “sand shark”. According to Blanchard, the most come sharks in the area are hammerheads, blacktips and sand sharks.

**SOURCES:** Charlotte Observer, June 11, 1988, page 1B; St. Louis Post-Dispatch, June 12, 1988, Late Five Star edition.

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

## MAN STABLE AFTER SHARK ATTACK AT HILTON HEAD ISLAND BEACH

*Associated Press*

A 37-year-old Missouri man was in stable condition Friday after being bitten by a **shark** at one of the most populous beaches on **Hilton Head** Island, authorities said.

Mark Dotter of Crestwood, Mo., was bitten three times on the left leg just after 4 p.m. Thursday in front of the Sea Pines Beach Club, according to **Hilton Head** Island Rescue Squad and eyewitness accounts.

Dotter was sitting in waist-deep water with his child when he was attacked by the **shark**. Dotter, who never lost consciousness, "saw a fin circling him" before he was bitten, said Lewis Blanchard, Rescue Squad director.

Dotter began screaming for help and tried to get back to the beach after he was bitten, Blanchard said. Lifeguards carried Dotter to shore. Blanchard said Dotter "was more concerned about his child" than anything else. The child was not injured.

*The Charlotte Observer, June 11, 1988, Page 1B*