



ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 1988.10.14](#)

DATE: Friday October 14, 1988

LOCATION: The accident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at South Beach, Boca Raton, Palm Beach County, Florida, USA

NAME: Aaron Shulman

DESCRIPTION: He is a 15-year-old male

BACKGROUND

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 yards

NARRATIVE: Aaron Shulman was surfing near lifeguard station 6, located 200 yards north of Boca Raton's beach pavilion. "I caught a wave and jumped off my board after the wave died out," he said. "I felt something grab and make a wrenching tug at my leg, then let go." Aaron got on his board and paddled to shore.

INJURY: The teen sustained a four-inch laceration to his left thigh. The shark's teeth marks encompassed his entire thigh.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Aaron told a lifeguard that something had bitten his leg. He was transported to Boca Raton Community Hospital where his injury was sutured.

Surfer suffers shark attack off Boca beach

By Wayne Tompkins
Staff Writer

A Boca Raton youth surfing off the city's South Beach was bitten by a shark about 100 yards offshore Friday.

Aaron Schulman, 15, said he was surfing near lifeguard station 6 — located 200 yards north of the city's beach pavilion — when he was attacked by what is believed to be a hammerhead shark more than 6 feet in length.

"I had caught a wave and jumped off my board after the wave died out," Aaron said. "I felt

6 The lifeguards say it had to have been a pretty big shark — bigger than me."

— Aaron Schulman

something grab and make kind of a wrenching tug at my leg, then let go. I thought it was a person."

Aaron said he then got on his board and paddled to shore, where he told a lifeguard that something

had bitten his leg. He was transported to Boca Raton Community Hospital, where doctors stitched up a four-inch gash in his left thigh.

Teeth marks from the shark encompassed his

entire thigh, however. "Based on that the lifeguards say it had to have been a pretty big shark — bigger than me," said Aaron.

"He was very lucky," said Aaron's mother, Sarah Schulman. "I was at home when the lifeguard called us. I guess they didn't want us to be alarmed because they just said Aaron had been bitten by a fish."

The Boca Raton attack is the first reported in the city this year, although a rash of shark sightings have taken place in the Singer Island area. Turn to Shark page 5A

SPECIES: Said to involve a hammerhead shark more than six feet in length.

SOURCE: Boca Raton News, Saturday October 15, 1988, pages 1A and 5A



Photo by Wayne Tompkins

Aaron Schulman, 15, with his father Stuart at Boca Raton Community Hospital on Friday.

Shark

From page 1A
of Riviera Beach.

On Tuesday, a 30-year-old man was attacked by a shark while surfing about 30 feet offshore in Jensen Beach. John Goodson suffered large gashes in the front and back of his leg but was treated and released from a Martin County hospital.

Marine experts say unusually large schools of small fish in the area have lured more sharks to the region than usual.

Despite Friday's incident, Aaron says he'll be hitting the surf again as soon as possible.

"I've seen sharks off the beach here before, but I never thought one would attack me," said Aaron, who has been surfing on South Beach for three years. "My biggest fear was being stung by a jellyfish."