

ACTIVITY: Playing and wading in the surf

CASE: 1993.07.07

DATE: Wednesday July 7, 1993

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean a half-mile north of the Main Street pier in Daytona Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Melissa Rodrigues

DESCRIPTION: She is a 12-year-old female from Long Island, New York.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 88% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated. Last Quarter, July 11, 1993.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 20 to 25 feet

DEPTH OF WATER: Waist-deep

TIME: 18h12

NARRATIVE: Melissa Rodrigues was playing in the surf with her cousins when she felt something hit her leg and start pulling her underwater. Unable to free her leg, she started screaming for help and kicked the shark. After several seconds, she broke free and a relative pulled her to shore.

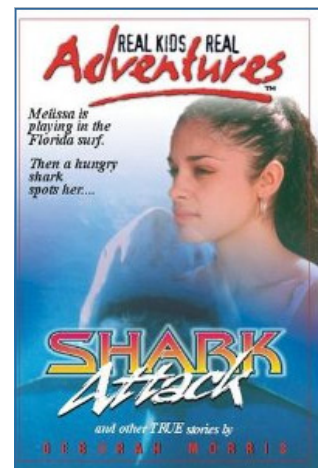
INJURY: She was bitten above and below her right knee.

FIRST AID: Lifeguard stations closed at 18h00, but Beach Ranger Charles Dowell was nearby when the girl was bitten and rendered first aid until medical personnel arrived and she was transported to the hospital.

TREATMENT: The girl's injuries were repaired in an hour-long operation at Halifax Medical Center.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Beach officials said that several types of sharks swimming around sandbars feeding on small pompano, spots, and whittings during the summer months and sometimes mistakenly grab a surfer's ankle or a swimmer's arm or leg. Teeth from a tiger shark were recovered from her wound. It was thought the shark was about eight feet in length.

SOURCES: Gary Taylor, Orlando Sentinel, July 8, 1993, page B.1; Pat LaMee, Orlando Sentinel, July 9, 1993 edition, page B.3; Ocala Star-Banner July 9, 1993



This incident was featured in a 1995 book by Deborah Morris