

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: GSAF 1995.08.25

DATE: Friday August 25, 1995

LOCATION: the incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean off Masonboro Island in New Hanover County, North Carolina, USA.



NAME: Michael Greenwood

DESCRIPTION: The swimmer was a 16-year-old male from Wilmington.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, August 26, 1995

ENVIRONMENT: Masonboro Island is the region's largest undeveloped barrier island and is separated from Wrightsville Beach by Masonboro Inlet. Large schools of baitfish were in the immediate vicinity.

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: "Waist-deep"

TIME: "Night"

NARRATIVE: The teen was surfing at the north end of Masonboro Island when he saw a large school of mullet, then felt the shark clamp down on his arm. Then, according to the surfer, the shark let go, then clamped down on his arm a second time.

INJURY: His left arm was bitten. Cuts ran from his elbow to his wrist.

TREATMENT: He was admitted to New Hanover County Regional Medical Center where 68 stitches were used to initially repair the cuts to his arm, then he underwent a four-hour surgical procedure to reattach four tendons that had been severed by the bite in order to regain use of four fingers.

SPECIES INVOLVED: It was speculated that a three- to five-foot shark was involved.

SOURCES: The Dispatch, Saturday August 26, 1995, page 2A; Sunday Star News (Wilmington), August 27, 1995, page 1; The Charlotte Observer, August 27, 1995, page 2B and August 28, 1995, Page 2C,

INVESTIGATOR: Clay Creswell, GSAF



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Surfer needs surgery after shark bites him on the arm

By RODNEY FOUSHEE

Staff Writer

A Wilmington teen-ager was recuperating Saturday night after undergoing four hours of surgery to repair an arm that was apparently bitten by a shark.

Michael Greenwood, 16, who was surfing Friday at the north end of Masonboro Island, was bitten by what he said was a 3- to 5-foot shark. He received 68 stitches Friday night at New Hanover Regional Medical Center for cuts that ran from his elbow to his wrist.

On Saturday afternoon, the number of stitches was increased to 97 as surgeons worked to reattach four tendons in Mr. Greenwood's arm that were severed in the bite. The tendons control four fingers, which he could not move before the surgery.

Doctors said he should regain

the use of his fingers.

Mr. Greenwood is the second person to report being bitten by a shark in New Hanover County the past week. On Tuesday, James Hall, 23, was bitten by what was thought to be a sand shark while swimming at Wrightsville Beach. He received 39 stitches on his right foot.

Both Mr. Greenwood and Mr. Hall reported seeing large schools of fish prior to being bitten. Mr. Wood, curator of education at the N.C. Aquarium at Fort Fisher, said the sharks mistakenly bit the men while chasing mullet.

Mr. Greenwood's mother, Mrs. Greenwood, said her son was sure a shark bit him while he was in waist-deep water. "He said he saw its eyes."

The fish clamped down on the surfer's arm once, let go and clamped down again, he told his mother.

Man says shark bit him

The Associated Press

MASONBORO ISLAND, N.C. — For the second time this week, a swimmer has reported being bitten by a shark in North Carolina waters.

Michael Greenwood, 16, of Wilmington suffered injuries to his arm after he was bitten by what he said was a 4- to 5-foot-long shark off Masonboro Island in New Hanover County on Friday night.

Family members said the teen was in waist-deep water when he saw mullet, then felt the bite on his left arm. He was admitted to New Hanover County Regional Medical Center, family members said.

On Tuesday, a man was bitten by what was believed to have been a sand shark near Johnny Mercer's Pier in Wrightsville Beach. He received nearly 40 stitches.

Andy Wood, curator of education at the state aquarium at Fort Fisher, said there may be some sharks in the in-shore waters. But he said they are biting people by mistake while trying to eat fish.

In other words, shark bites to humans happen because of mistaken identity.

Wood advises people in the water to be aware of any big schools of fish because sharks could be feeding on them.

2nd shark attack reported; expert says bites not deliberate

Associated Press

MASONBORO ISLAND — For the second time in a week, a swimmer has reported being bitten by a shark in N.C. waters.

Michael Greenwood, 16, of Wilmington was bitten on the arm Friday night by what he said was a 4- to 5-foot-long shark off Masonboro Island in New Hanover County.

Family members said the teen was in waist-deep water when he saw mullet, then felt the bite on his left arm. He was admitted to New

Hanover County Regional Medical Center, relatives said.

On Tuesday, a man was bitten by what is thought to have been a sand shark near Johnny Mercer's Pier in Wrightsville Beach. The man received nearly 40 stitches.

The sharks were not deliberately biting people, but were happening upon them while searching for fish to eat, said Andy Wood, curator of education at the state aquarium at Fort Fisher. Wood advised people in the water to be aware of any big schools of fish because sharks could be feeding on them.