

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: GSAF 1996.02.19.R

DATE: Reported February 19, 1996

LOCATION: The incident took place in a fish tank in St. Louis, Missouri, USA.

NAME: Kathi Peters

DESCRIPTION: She is a 32-year-old female from Sarasota, Florida

NARRATIVE: Kathi and her husband, Marco Peters, were performing in a 9,000-gallon tank containing six nurse sharks at the St Louis Boat and Sports Show when she inadvertently placed her hand at the bottom of the fish tank during the show.

INJURY: She sustained five puncture marks on both sides of her hand.

SPECIES: the incident involved a nurse shark named Bob.

NOTE: This is considered a provoked incident; it involved a captive shark.

SOURCE: Deseret News (Salt Lake City), Monday, February 19, 1996; European Stars and Stripes (Darmstadt, Hesse), Tuesday, February 20, 1996

Shark show performer bitten

ST. LOUIS — Shark attacks on humans are rare, especially in Missouri.

Kathi Peters got bitten in the hand while she and her husband were performing in a tank of six nurse sharks at the St. Louis Boat and Sports Show.

Peters, 32, inadvertently placed her hand at the bottom of the 9,000-gallon fish tank while swimming during Saturday's show. Nurse sharks eat from the bottom of the ocean, and to one of the sharks, named Bob, the hand must have looked like a fish, she said.

"Sharks are opportunists," said Peters, who received five puncture marks on both sides of her hand. "I feel bad for confusing him."

Peters and her husband, Marco, from Sarasota, Fla., travel around the country with the sharks.

"Nurse sharks have a bad reputation for being aggressive when they're usually very nice," she said. "I don't want people to get the wrong idea."