

ACTIVITY: Standing
CASE: GSAF 1997.07.14
DATE: Monday July 14, 1997
LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean near 60th Avenue North in Myrtle Beach, Horry County, South Carolina, USA.

NAME: Flint Cowden
DESCRIPTION: He is a 50-year-old male from Huntsville, Alabama.



BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, July 13, 1997
ENVIRONMENT: Myrtle Beach is located along South Carolina's northern coast. It is the center of the Grand Strand, 60 miles of beaches that stretches from the North Carolina border to Georgetown.
DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 50 yards
DEPTH OF WATER: Chest-deep
TIME: Night

NARRATIVE: The man felt something clamp down on his left leg. "It felt like I stepped in a bear trap," said Cowden.

INJURY: His left calf was bitten. The bite measured seven inches by eight inches.

SPECIES INVOLVED: The incident was thought to involve a blacktip shark.

SOURCES: Sun News (Myrtle Beach), Wednesday July 16, 1997; Aiken Standard (Aiken, SC), July 16, 1997; Charlotte Observer, July 17, 1997, page 2C; The State Columbia, SC), July 17, 1997

Alabama man bitten by shark in surf

MYRTLE BEACH (AP) — Flint Cowden spent what was supposed to be his last day of vacation recuperating from a shark bite.

The Huntsville, Ala., man had to extend his trip a day to let the 7-by-8-inch wound on his calf heal a bit.

Cowden, 50, was in chest-deep water about 50 yards from shore Monday night when he felt something clamp onto his left leg.

"It felt like I stepped in a bear trap," Cowden said Tuesday from his hotel room. "I couldn't see through the water. I just realized something had done some damage."

The water was murky because of nearby dredging from the beach renourishment project.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Clay Creswell, Global Shark Accident File