

Marathon, Florida



ACTIVITY: Scuba diving

CASE: [GSAF 1998.04.17](#)

DATE: Thursday April 17, 1998

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Florida Keys off Marathon, Monroe County, USA.

NAME: Kevin Morrison

DESCRIPTION: A 16-year-old male from Rockford, Illinois.

SUPPORT BOAT: The dive boat *Spirit Catamaran*

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Third Quarter, April 19, 1998

NARRATIVE: Kevin Morrison was on a dive trip with his family when he saw the shark swimming nearby. When he pulled the shark's tail, the fish whipped around and clamped down on his chest.

INJURY: The teen's chest was bitten.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: The captain of the dive boat radioed the U.S. Coast Guard, which took the boy and shark by boat and then by ambulance to Fishermen's Hospital in Marathon. There doctors injected the boy with Novocain, then split the spine of the shark to unlock its jaws. "[The shark's] poor, sad little gills were still pumping," said Kathleen Starkey, emergency room nurse. The teen was released from the hospital the same day.

SPECIES INVOLVED: A three-foot nurse shark

Rockford teen bitten by shark in Florida

MARATHON, Fla. — A shark bit a teenager this week and hung on when the victim was rushed to a hospital with the shark clinging to his chest by its jaws. Kevin Morrison, 16, Rockford, Ill., was scuba diving with his father in the Florida Keys, when he saw a 3-foot nurse shark swimming near him and grabbed its tail, emergency workers said. The teenager was treated and released Thursday.

NOTE: This was a provoked incident.

SOURCES: Orlando Sentinel, Saturday April 18, 1998 edition, page D.7.
Daily Herald, April 18, 1998, page 1.3.