

ACTIVITY: Surfing
CASE: [GSAF 1999.08.24](#)
DATE: Tuesday August 24, 1999
LOCATION: Fort Fisher State Recreation Area, New Hanover County, North Carolina, USA.

NAME: Unknown
DESCRIPTION: male

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, August 26, 1999
ENVIRONMENT: Fort Fisher State Recreation Area is located on the southern tip of Pleasure Island near Wilmington. It lies between the Atlantic Ocean on the east and the Cape Fear River on the west.

NARRATIVE: No details

INJURY: He sustained an injury to his foot.

TREATMENT: He was treated at Cape Fear Memorial Hospital and released.

SOURCE: Wilmington Morning Star, Wednesday August 25, 1999



SURFER HURT AT FORT FISHER **Man's wound called shark bite**

By MIKE RAMSEY

Staff Writer

A physician at Cape Fear Memorial Hospital believes a shark bit a surfer at Fort Fisher State Recreation Area on Tuesday.

An emergency room nurse confirmed that a man was treated and released for an apparent shark bite on his foot.

The nurse could not release more information about the patient because of patient confidentiality rules. It is not clear how the bite victim got

to the hospital. A witness at the scene said he thought the man was a surfer.

A New Hanover County emergency dispatcher could not find a mention of the shark bite among the emergency calls.

Andy Wood, curator of education at the state aquarium at Fort Fisher, said he had not heard about a shark bite Tuesday. Mr. Wood said it's possible a shark bit the swimmer, but other types of fish couldn't be ruled out.

Bluefish, Spanish mackerel and even large flounder have been known

to bite people.

North Carolina waters are home to sharks, including the sandbar and sharp-nose varieties. Sandbar sharks grow about 7 feet long and sharp-nose get about 4 to 5 feet long.

Mr. Wood said if a shark did bite the man, it probably was taking a "test" bite to determine whether the foot was edible. "We are not part of the shark's diet," he said.

Mr. Wood said shark attacks are extremely rare, amounting to only a few dozen a year worldwide.

"You are more likely to be killed by hogs," he said.