

ACTIVITY: Boating

CASE: **GSAF 2000.06.13**

DATE: Tuesday June 13, 2000

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Gulf of Mexico in Pensacola Bay off the tip of Santa Rosa Island, Florida, USA. This site is about 25 miles east of Gulf Shores, Alabama where Chuck Anderson and Richard Whatley were attacked by a bull shark on June 9, 2000.



DESCRIPTION OF BOAT: A 22-foot pleasure craft

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waxing Gibbous, 89% of the moon's visible disk was illuminated. Full Moon on June 16, 2000.

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: Six feet

TIME: 14h30

NARRATIVE: According to the Mobile Register, the Pensacola-area boaters were sailing west of Pensacola Beach between Fort Pickens Point and Langdon Beach when they saw a large shadow in the water and thought it was a large cobia, a gamefish that grows up to six feet in length and resembles a shark in shape, said Coast Guard spokesman Charles Clark. Then the boaters moved in closer and saw that it was a large shark. People were swimming about 20 feet away at the time and one of the boaters was "concerned because the shark was acting so aggressive," Clark said. The boaters tried to position the boat between the shark and the beach and began yelling at swimmers to get out of the water, Clark said. That's when the shark apparently lunged at the boat and bit it, said Clark.

The National Park Service also reported this incident: "On the afternoon of June 13th, three people in a 22-foot pleasure craft in shallow water in the Gulf of Mexico 20 yards off Langdon Beach saw a gray object in the water and determined that it was an eight-foot-long shark that was moving toward the beach, where a number of families were swimming. The operator maneuvered the boat in an attempt to force the shark into deeper waters and away from the swimmers. The shark appeared agitated and bit the swimming platform on the rear of the vessel □ two bolts were pulled from the platform and a rubber mat sustained a bite mark. Nobody in the boat was injured. The shark eventually changed direction and moved into deeper waters. The boaters could not tell what species of shark it was, but believe it might have been a bull shark after reviewing pictures of a variety of species. *John Bandurski, DR, Florida District, 6/15*"

INJURY: No injury to occupants of the boat.

DAMAGE TO BOAT: The shark ripped the boat's rear swim platform partially out of place.

SPECIES INVOLVED: According to the boaters, the incident involved a bull shark, *Carcharhinus leucas*, about eight feet in length.

SOURCES: Charlotte Observer, June 15, 1000, page 8A; Mobile Register, June 14, 2000; <http://64.233.187.104/search?q=cache:5eSZqomfl-EJ:data2.itc.nps.gov/morningreport/archive/2000/06-19.doc+park+shark+swim+national&hl=en>