

**ACTIVITY:** Snorkeling

**CASE:** **GSAF 2000.07.22**

**DATE:** Saturday July 22, 2000

**LOCATION:** The incident took place off Big Pine Key, Monroe County, Florida. 24.7°N, 81.4°W

**NAME:** Andrea Nani

**DESCRIPTION:** The diver is a 45-year-old female, a housewife from Coral Springs.

**SUPPORT BOAT:** The boat was operated by Strike Zone Charters.

### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Last Quarter, July 24, 2000

**DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE:**  
Three feet

**NARRATIVE:** Andrea Nani, her husband and their two daughters signed on as participants on a shark feeding dive, but once onsite she elected not to participate. Apparently some time later, while the crew was preparing dinner, she went snorkeling on her own. Nobody was in the water with her when a nurse shark clamped onto her calf. "I shook my leg. I couldn't get him off my body," Nani said. Her husband jumped into the water, flailed at the shark and it let go.

**INJURY:** According to the boat captain, the injury was just a "surface wound".

**TREATMENT:** After the boat returned to the dock, the Nanis drove to a hospital in Key West for treatment but the wound was not stitched and she was not admitted to the hospital. However, the injury failed to heal and she subsequently required a skin graft.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** According to Nani, the incident involved a 1.5 metre [5'] nurse shark.

**NOTE:** Nani alleged that the tour operator had thrown chunks of fish into the water thereby enticing the shellfish-feeding shark to her leg, and retained a lawyer, Michael Joseph, to bring a suit against the operator. She phoned the Global Shark Accident File about a year after the incident. At that time she mentioned that prior to the incident she had been diagnosed with fibromyalgia although she "had been entirely symptom-free". Recently, she said, she had developed symptoms of the disease and speculated that they developed as result of the incident. Nani said that she would send photos of her injury but none have been received to date.

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Erich Ritter, Ph.D., Global Shark Accident File

