

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: GSAF 2000.08.21

DATE: Monday August 21, 2000

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Emerald Isle, North Carolina, USA.

34.7°N, 77°W

NAME: Unknown

DESCRIPTION: The man was from Maryland and in his 40s.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: First Quarter

SEA CONDITIONS: Mean high tide occurred at 06h36, mean low tide at 14h31.

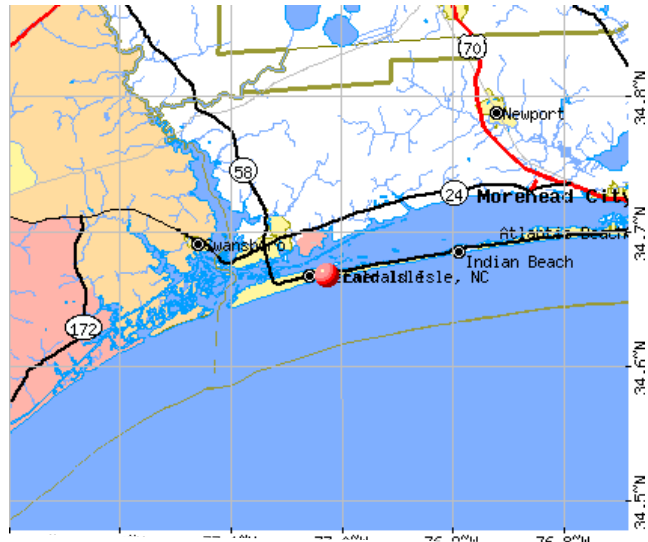
NARRATIVE: The man swimming away from the beach toward some porpoises. He took a stroke and then he was bitten. The man didn't see what bit him.

INJURY: Severe laceration slightly above the wrist.

TREATMENT: The swimmer was taken to Carteret General Hospital in Morehead City, and then flown by helicopter to University of North Carolina Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Unknown

CASE INVESTIGATORS: Clay Creswell, GSAF; Dr. Frank Schwartz



Swimmer bitten by fish at Emerald Isle

EMERALD ISLE (AP) — A swimmer along Bogue Banks was attacked Monday by a fish, causing a severe gash in the vacationer's left hand, a fire official said.

The swimmer in the waters along Emerald Isle received a severe laceration from the bite slightly above his wrist, said Emerald Isle Fire Department Capt. Jeff Strawser.

"It was almost an amputation," Strawser said.

The man was taken to Carteret General Hospital in Morehead City and then flown by helicopter to UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill, Strawser said. His condition was unknown Monday night.

The man said he didn't see what bit him, and it was unclear if the fish was a shark. This summer has been an active one for shark attacks off the North Carolina coast, with two confirmed bites.

"I've been here 11 years, almost 12, and on this part of the beach in Bogue Banks, we've never had a shark attack," Strawser said. "It could have been any kind of species of fish."

The man was attacked as he began to swim out to some porpoises away from the beach, according to Strawser.

"He took a stroke and that's when it went after him," Strawser said.

The man's name was unavailable late Monday, but he was from Maryland, in his 40s, and was at Emerald Isle on vacation, Strawser said.

While there have been only 15 recorded shark attacks in the state's waters in the last 130 years, two occurred last month. A surfer was bitten on the foot while surfing off Holden Beach, while a 12-year-old girl from Ohio received more than 300 stitches while playing in the Outer Banks surf.

Swimmer bitten at Emerald Isle

Associated Press

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