

**ACTIVITY:** Fishing

**CASE:** [GSAF 2002.05.13](#)

**DATE:** Monday May 13, 2002

**LOCATION:** The incident took place near the southern boundary of the Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge in the Gulf of Mexico. The refuge is approximately 20 miles southeast of Naples, Collier County, Florida. The western boundary lies along county road 92, the Gulf of Mexico borders the southern boundary, and the eastern boundary lies just west of Everglades National Park.

**NAME:** Fermin Gallegos

**DESCRIPTION:** The fisherman is a 31-year-old male from LaBelle.

### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** New Moon, May 12, 2002

**TIME:** Unknown, he was brought ashore at Everglades City at 18h30

**NARRATIVE:** Gallegos was fishing with a friend and nephew when he tried to pull a redfish into the boat. "I reached over the boat to grab the fish and the shark grabbed me. I guess he was after the fish and my arm just got in the way," said Gallegos.

**INJURY:** The fisherman suffered a deep gash on his left forearm (according to a later report, he was bitten on his right arm). There was no bone or nerve damage.

**TREATMENT:** Gallegos was airlifted from Everglades City to Naples Community Hospital where the wound was sutured. He was released from the hospital the next day, according to Collier County sheriff's reports.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** According to the fisherman, the shark was about seven to eight feet in length.

**NOTE:** According to the News-Press, the fisherman had caught the shark before it bit him. If so, this is a provoked incident.

**SOURCES:** Sun Sentinel; Southwest Florida Digest, May 14, 2002; News-Press, May 23, 2002, page1B

