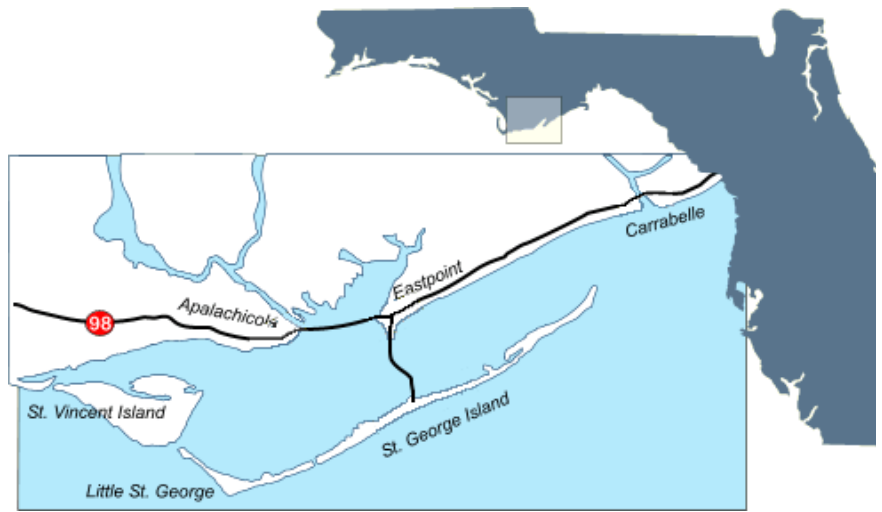


ACTIVITY: Floating on a raft
CASE: [GSAF 2002.05.31.a](#)
DATE: Friday May 32, 2002
LOCATION: The incident took place in the Gulf of Mexico off St. George Island, Franklin County, Florida, USA.
29.7°N, 84.9°W

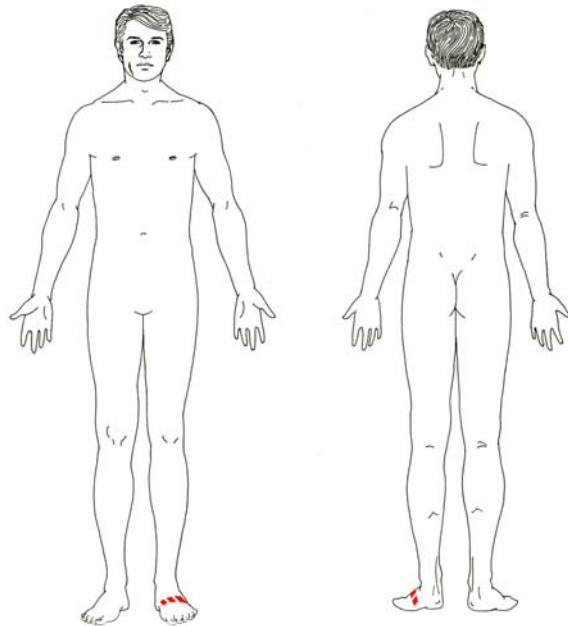


NAME: Matt Tichenor
DESCRIPTION: He is a 16-year-old male from Birmingham, Alabama.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sky was clear and the air temperature was 82.9°F [28.3°C].
MOON PHASE: Last Quarter, June 2, 2002
SEA CONDITIONS: The water was clear.
ENVIRONMENT: People were reportedly fishing and feeding seagulls near the boys at the time of the incident.
DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 50 to 60 feet
TIME: Late afternoon

NARRATIVE: Matt Tichenor was floating on a raft and his younger brother was swimming nearby when he heard a big splash off to his left. Then he saw a brown shape circling beneath him, and recognized that it was a shark. Seconds later, it bit his foot. "I looked down and saw that my foot was bleeding pretty bad, so I tried to get in as quick as I could."



INJURY: Five tendons on the dorsum of the left foot were severed.

FIRST AID: Tichenor's mother was on the beach and called to three men to help get her son to their beach house some 100 feet away. Paramedics arrived and transported the teen to the island airport and he was airlifted to a Panama City hospital.

TREATMENT: Surgeons repaired the injury in a three hour procedure.

SPECIES INVOLVED: According to the teen, the shark was about three feet in length.

SOURCES: South Florida Sun Sentinel and Orlando Sentinel, June 3, 2002, page B.2