

ACTIVITY: Fishing

CASE: GSAF 2003.08.29

DATE: Friday August 29, 2003

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Gulf of Mexico near Surfside Beach, 60 miles south of Houston, Texas, USA. 29.0°N, 95.3°W

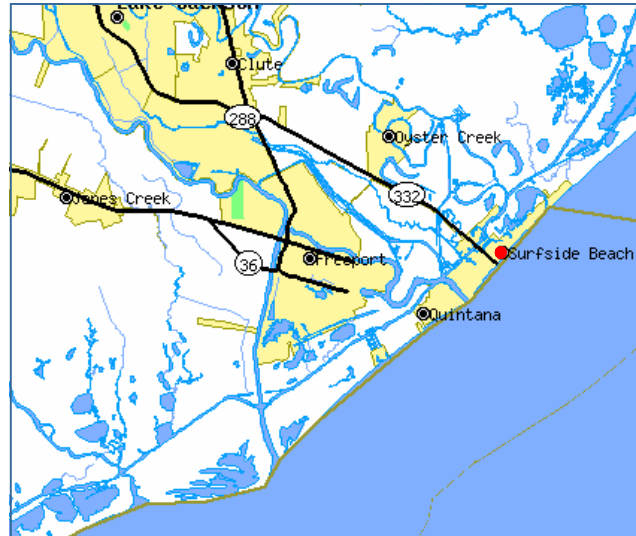
NAME: Saul Gonzalez

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 12h53, Angleton, Texas recorded clear skies and 10 mile visibility. The air temperature was 87.1°F [30.6°C], dew point 75°F [23.9°C], humidity 67%, sea level pressure 29.97 inches [1014.7 hPa], and wind direction was SE at 6.9 mph [11.1 km/h].

MOON PHASE: New Moon, August 27, 2003

TIME: 12h20



NARRATIVE: Saul Gonzalez hadn't hooked much of anything all morning. He and his fishing buddies were on their way back to the boat ramp and had dropped their lines. Their boat was about 1.5 miles off the Surfside jetties, when Gonzalez hooked the shark. He planned to release the shark but wanted his picture taken with the fish. While a friend got a knife to cut the line, Gonzalez hauled the shark onboard the boat. As he grabbed the shark, it bit his arm. Other fishermen in the boat threw the shark overboard.

INJURY: The fisherman's arm was lacerated.

TREATMENT: The fishermen called 911 from the boat, asking for an ambulance. Gonzalez never lost consciousness and was talking as EMS officials wrapped his wound and waited for the helicopter. LifeFlight took the injured fisherman to Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston. He was expected to be released the next day.

SPECIES INVOLVED: The incident involved a hooked bull shark, *Carcharhinus leucas*, about four feet in length.

NOTE: This is a provoked incident; the shark bit the man after it had been hooked.

SOURCE: <http://www.dfw.com/mld/startelegram/news/state/6656592.htm?1c>