



**ACTIVITY:** Wade-fishing

**CASE:** GSAF 2003.09.00

**DATE:** September 2003

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Gulf of Mexico at Boca Grande, Florida, USA.

**NAME:** Anonymous

**DESCRIPTION:** He is an adult male.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**ENVIRONMENT:** The fisherman was towing a stringer of spotted seatrout. "It is not uncommon for such stringers to be 25 feet long, ending in a foam crab trap. The float keeps the trout way downstream among what may be swarms of sharks, and if the strings bob under, that is a sign to adopt defensive tactics," reports Stout. "Combined with the mud and commotion kicked up by the waders, the scent trail of the fish being dragged through the stained bay waters, it was a textbook shark attractant."

**NARRATIVE:** The man was wade-fishing with two companions. He was wading back to his boat to retrieve his fishing license, under the supervision of two Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) law enforcement officers, when he was bitten by the shark.

**INJURY:** Two deep lacerations on both sides of the Achilles tendon.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** No details.

**SOURCE:** Byron Stout, bstout@news-press.com

**NOTE:** Stout also writes: "Never mind all that advice about avoiding waters with signs of bait fishes or feeding activity. That's exactly what a wade fisherman looks for. After which, making fish splash and struggle is the name of the game. A better alternative than the long-stringer solution might be storing caught fish in a black plastic bag, towed way back in a flotation ring or inner tube. That should take scent out of the equation. If a shark does show, a fishing rod isn't much of a shark billy, but it's something. And a metal hand scale, like the popular Boga-Grip, could be very useful in discouraging sharks. The book says the eyes and gills, not the nose, are a shark's most sensitive spots. All of which presupposes being unable to evacuate the water. Or you can simply fish from shore in the first place. Just keep an eye out for bees and coconuts. On the air Be sure to tune in to *Go Fish with Byron Stout*, a new show airing during the NBC-2 News Today broadcast at 9:30 a.m. Saturday."

**SOURCE:** Byron Stout, News Press, September 24, 2003