

ACTIVITY: Walking

CASE: [GSAF 2004.08.29.b](#)

DATE: Sunday August 29, 2004

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Cape Canaveral National Seashore, Brevard County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Debbie Salamone

DESCRIPTION: She is a 38-year-old female from Longwood, an Orlando Sentinel reporter specializing in investigative projects. She is 5'7" tall, weighs 128 lbs., and was wearing a blue (multicolor) bikini and a gold necklace.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: From 15h30 to 17h00, Cocoa Beach recorded a thunderstorm. At 17h34, the rain had stopped, the sky was mostly cloudy and visibility was seven miles. The air temperature was 82.4°F [28°C], dew point 73.4°F [23°C], humidity 74%, sea level pressure 29.90 inches [1012.4 hPa], and wind direction was south-southeast at 8.1 mph [13 km/h].

MOON PHASE: New Moon, August 15, 2004. First Quarter, August 23, 2004.

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was dark brown, murky and rough.

ENVIRONMENT: Salamone saw a large fish jump from the water and had decided to return to shore.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 50 feet

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: Four feet (waist-deep)

TIME: 17h30 [5:30 p.m.]

NARRATIVE: Debbie Salamone had been in the water with her husband for about 25 minutes. She was walking to shore when the shark clamped down on her right heel. She never saw the shark but felt its body with her left foot as she tried to kick it to get free. The shark latched onto her heel, let go, and latched on again, said her husband Craig Wickham. "She called out 'It's got me'," he said

INJURY: Her right heel was bitten. Her Achilles tendon was severed and the heel pad was severely lacerated.

FIRST AID: A nurse, Tecla Lucignani, was returning unusually late from her daily stroll along the ocean's edge. Lucignani wrapped Salamone's the injured foot tightly in the towed, applied pressure and kept it elevated.

TREATMENT: The patient arrived in a private car at Bert Fish Medical Center in New

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Top: Salamone, left, hugs nurse Tecla Lucignani, who treated her shark bite last year at the Canaveral National Seashore. Bottom: Debbie Salamone's ankle still bears the scars of her shark bite.

Smyrna Beach about 60 minutes after the incident. The wound was surgically repaired by Charles Kollmer, M.D. X-rays were taken but it was not known if any tooth fragments were visible or if any were recovered from her wound. Pre-op photographs were also taken. In July 2005, Debbie reported that she had regained 95% function in her foot.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified

SOURCES: Debbie Salamone, Orlando Sentinel; Daytona Beach News Journal, August 31, 2004 edition, page 1C; <http://www.wftv.com/news/3690098/detail.html>

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