

ACTIVITY: Fishing

CASE: [GSAF 2005.06.27](#)

DATE: Monday June 27, 2005

LOCATION: The attack took place in the Gulf of Mexico on the south side of Cape San Blas, a narrow spit of land about 40 miles southeast of Panama City. Cape San Blas is located in Gulf County, Florida, USA.

29.8°N, 85.3°W

NAME: Craig Adam Hutto

DESCRIPTION: He is a 16-year-old male from Lebanon, Tennessee.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: “The day was perfect. It was cloudy so it wasn't hot,” said Craig's mother, Lou Ann Hutto. The average temperatures in June range from 71° to 88°F. At 10h56 and 11h56 the weather station at Cape San Blas recorded clear skies, 10-mile visibility and no wind. The air temperature was 82°F [27.8°C], dew point 73.9°F [23.3°C], humidity 76%, sea level pressure was 30.10 inches [1019.3 hPa].

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 64% of the Moon was illuminated. Last Quarter, June 28, 2005

SEA CONDITIONS: The average ocean temperature in June at Cape San Blas is 88°F.

ENVIRONMENT: Contrary to press reports, Craig was not carrying bait in his pocket nor was he reeling in a fish.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 40 yards

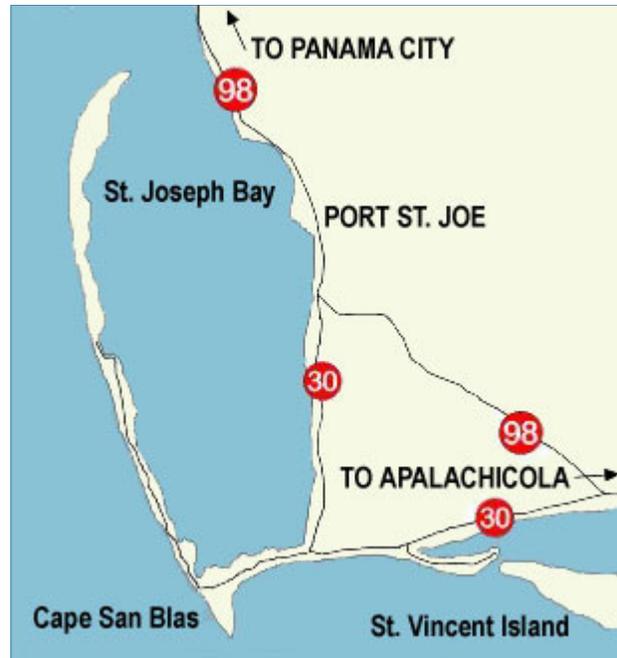
DEPTH OF WATER: Waist-deep

TIME: 11h30

NARRATIVE: The family had walked from their rented condo to the beach, and Craig and his 25-year-old Brian started to fish in a spot where they had caught fish the previous day. “They were catching fish and were bringing them in for us to see. We were taking pictures and videos,” said Lou Ann Hutto. “Brian had caught a nice-sized fish, about 14 to 18 inches, so they had hopes of catching more like that. We were just sitting there in the chairs, and they were coming back every time they caught one,” said Craig's father, Roger Hutto. “Craig said, 'Let's go out to that same spot.'”

The two brothers were walking to a sandbar and were about 10 feet apart when Craig felt a bump on his leg, and then the shark bit his right thigh and dragged him beneath the surface.

“All of a sudden Craig starts hollering,” said Roger. “You can tell something is wrong. You



Craig Hutto

think first that some fish is nibbling on him or he stepped on something. Then he was just jerked under. . .At that point Brian went over to him. At that point we all knew what was going on."

Brian hit the shark repeatedly and tried to pull his brother away from its jaws. Roger waded into the water and the two men managed to pull Craig away from the shark and get him to shore. The shark was persistent and kept biting Craig until he was just two feet from shore. Brian said he didn't have time to think about what was happening when the shark attacked, and said that his brother was on shore less than a minute after the initial bite.

Witnesses saw the boys struggling in the water, but initially thought they were playing. "We realized after seeing a spray of red in the water we were not dealing with any kind of prank," Kandy Peterson said. The attack on Craig was also witnessed by Karen Eaker, 42, of Horn Lake, Mississippi. "Within five seconds it was obvious there was something wrong," Eaker said. "We had heard the word 'shark' and then we saw the red water and the tug-of-war."

INJURY: Craig's right thigh was severely injured; the shark bit into his right femur, destroying most of the muscle, nerves and blood vessels in the thigh. Dr. Reed Finne, a cardiovascular surgeon at Bay Medical Center in Panama City, reported that the limb suffered irreparable damage to blood vessels and nerves between the hip and knee, as well as to most of the surrounding muscle. Craig's hands were also lacerated.

FIRST AID: Craig was laid down on the sand, and two nurses, also staying in nearby condos, immediately came to offer aid. A doctor and an emergency medical technician also happened to be on nearby on the beach began first aid as soon as the teen was brought ashore, and that swift action probably saved his life, said Shane McGuffin, Gulf County's medical services director. Craig's right leg was elevated and worked to stop the bleeding from his femoral artery. Although the incident took place on a remote area of the beach, an ambulance arrived on the scene within 10 minutes. Craig waited inside the ambulance for 45 minutes for the LifeFlight helicopter which flew him to a Panama City hospital.

TREATMENT: Hutto was in shock and had lost a tremendous amount of blood when he arrived at Bay Medical, requiring "a lot of resuscitation at that time," according to Dr. Glenn Summers of Bay Medical Center. "The work that was done in the field was where the true heroism came into play," he said. "The main thing that stood out in my mind was the hero in the field that really saved his life. . . .We went to the operating room with the idea that we would do anything we could to salvage the limb. However, it became apparent pretty early on there were not enough structures there to reconstruct in order to have viable limb, and the decision was made at that point to amputate."

Dr. Finne said the boy would undergo additional surgery Tuesday to clean what remains of his leg and will be treated for possible tendon damage to his hands suffered when he fought the shark. The teen underwent additional surgery to repair damage to his hands.

Dr. Summers said Hutto is weeks away from being released from the hospital and months away from rehabilitation. He could be transferred to a facility closer to his Tennessee home, the doctor said. "He's still at extreme risk for infection, but his prognosis is excellent

because he is young and healthy," he said.

"He's got a pretty vivid memory of what happened, as we all do," said Roger Hutto, the teen's father, a lawyer for the Tennessee Department of Safety."

NOTE: Craig lost 3,500 cubic centimeters of blood in the accident. He was given two body transfusions and 16 extra pints of blood in the hospital. He remained hospitalized for two-and-a-half weeks, and underwent six operations. In September 2005, Craig was fitted with a prosthetic leg, and soon discarded crutches. His hands, although scarred, regained their mobility. In November 2005, Craig said he planned to compete in a triathlon with his brothers. Craig said that despite what he's been through, he's not afraid of the water. "Everybody thinks I should be really scared, but it's a once-in-a-lifetime thing," he said of the shark attack. "You don't need to be scared every time you get in the water. It's made me live life a lot better than I did. I enjoy things I used to take for granted, like walking. Everyone takes walking for granted, but now I am really happy to be able to walk."

SPECIES INVOLVED: The incident involved a bull shark, six to eight feet in length.

SOURCES: News Channel 5 (Nashville);
www.newschannel5.com/content/news/12527.asp; ABC News
The Trentonian, June 28, 2005, page 11

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Erich Ritter, Ph.D.



Boy loses leg after shark attack in Florida

Teen critically bitten while fishing on Gulf Coast

By **BILL KACZOR**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PANAMA CITY, Fla. — A boy fishing in waist-deep water Monday was bitten and critically injured in the second shark attack on a teenager along the Florida Panhandle in three days.

Craig Hutto, 16, of Lebanon, Tenn., was taken to Bay Medical Center in Panama City, where his leg was amputated. He was listed in critical condition but was expected to recover, said hospital spokeswoman Christa Hild.

The boy was attacked off Cape San Blas, a popular vacation destination about 80 miles southeast of the Destin area where Jamie Marie Daigle, 14, of Gonzales, La., was killed by a shark Saturday.

The boy was fishing with two friends when the shark bit him in the right thigh, nearly severing his leg, Gulf County Sheriff's Capt. Bobby Plair said.

The three then tried to wrestle the shark off the boy, hitting it in the nose several times. The teen was pulled ashore by his friends, and a doctor who happened to be nearby began treatment before the boy was taken to the hospital, Plair said. The shark was about 6 to 8 feet long, he said, citing witnesses.

Officials closed the county's beaches until today.

On Saturday, Daigle had been swimming on a boogie board with a friend about 100 yards from shore when a shark tore away the flesh on one leg from her hip to her knee.

Erich Ritter of the Shark Attack Institute said the girl was probably attacked by a 6-foot bull shark, based on measurements of the bite wound. He said it was unlikely the same shark was responsible for Monday's attack.

After Saturday's attack, a 20-mile stretch of shore was closed to swimmers, but beaches reopened Sunday.

NATION

Teen critically hurt in latest shark attack

By BILL KACZOR

Of The Associated Press
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was 14.

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The three then tried to wrestle the shark off the boy, hitting it in the nose several times. The teen was pulled ashore by his friends, and a doctor who happened to be nearby began treatment before the boy was taken to the hospital, Plair said.

"It got the main arteries in the right leg," Plair said, adding that the boy lost a large amount of blood. The shark was about 6 to 8 feet long, Plair said, citing witnesses.

Gulf County has no lifeguards on

any of its beaches, he said. Officials closed the county's beaches until late Tuesday morning.

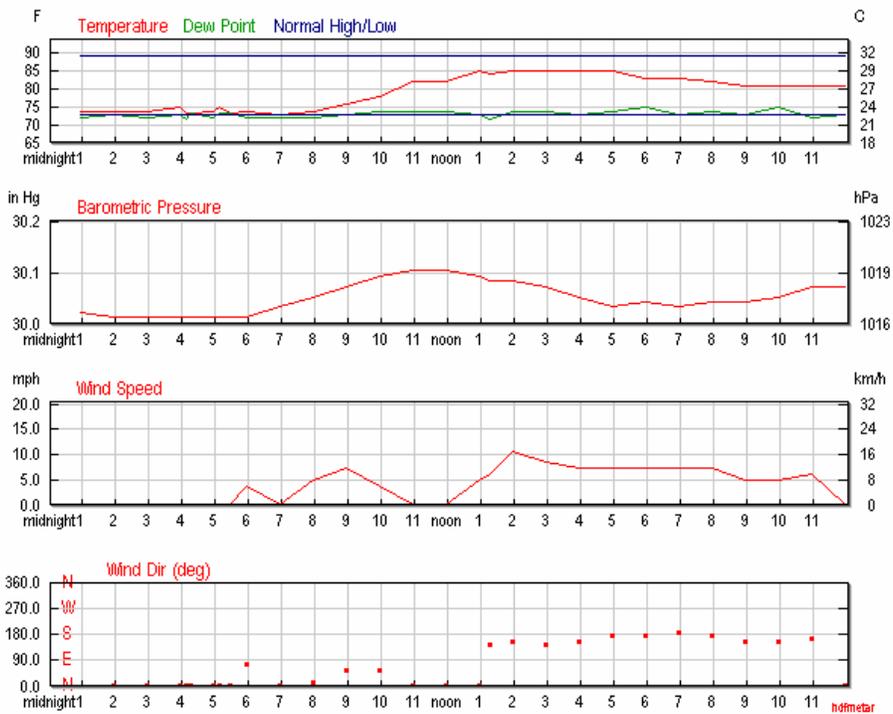
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AP Photo
Craig A. Hutto, 16, who was critically injured yesterday in the second shark attack in three days along Florida's northwestern coast, is taken from a medical helicopter before being driven to a hospital in Panama City, Fla.



Meteorological data for Cape San Blas on June 27, 2005