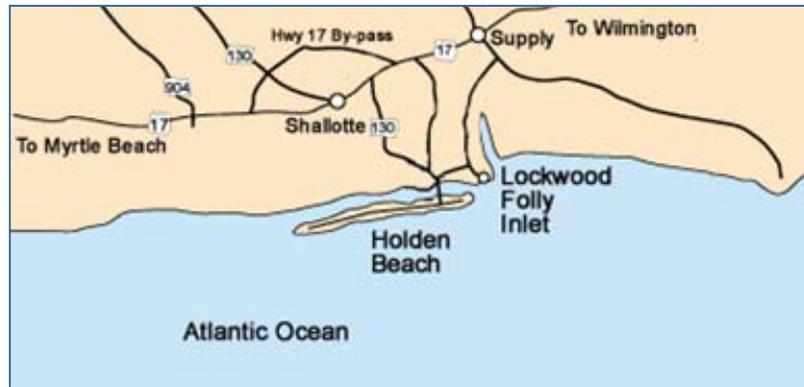


ACTIVITY: Floating on his back, clinging to a raft.

CASE: **GSF 2005.07.15**

DATE: Friday July 15, 2005

LOCATION: The incident took place at the 600 block of Ocean Boulevard, Holden Beach, Brunswick County, North Carolina. 34.0°N, 78.3°W



NAME: Chris Humphrey

DESCRIPTION: He is a 22-year-old male from Springfield, Virginia. He is 6'4" tall, weighs 160 pounds and was wearing light blue swim trunks. He wore no jewelry and had no injuries prior to the incident.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: It was a sunny day, the temperature was 87°F and there was a light westerly breeze.

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, July 21, 2005

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea was murky green with two to three-foot underwater visibility. There were swells and the current was flowing west to east (towards the pier). The water temperature was about 85° to 90°F. No channel was present. Mean high tide was at 14h40.

ENVIRONMENT: Holden Beach has a year-round population of fewer than a thousand residents, but every summer thousands of visitors rent homes on Holden Beach. Small sharks were being caught in the surf all week and some people were fishing about 150 east of Chris when he was bitten.

DISTANCE FROM FISHING PIER: 300 to 400 feet east of the incident site.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 15 to 20 yards.

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: Waist deep, 3.5 to 4 feet

TIME: 15h30 [3:30 p.m.]



Chris Humphrey

NBC-17

NARRATIVE: Hundreds of people were on the beach and in the water. Two to three people were swimming to the west of Chris. He had been in the water 15 or 20 minutes and was facing seawards. His friend, Phillip Seale, decided to paddle seawards in the raft and went about 50 feet farther from shore. Chris did not want to go that far out so Phillip paddled back to him using his hands and feet. When Phillip reached him, Chris grabbed hold of the raft and started pulling it through the water. Chris was facing seawards, his left arm extended, when he felt a wave on his right arm. As he looked to his right, the shark grabbed his left forearm. Chris swung around and punched the shark with his fist on the top/side of its snout. The shark released him, whipped around and swam away. Chris and Phillip ran to the beach.

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INJURY: Chris' left forearm arm was bitten by the shark. There was a laceration on the ventral surface of the left forearm and another from the base of the palm to the thumb, and crescent-shaped series of puncture wound. There were also a crescent of puncture wounds on the dorsal surface of the forearm. One tendon was torn and the radial nerve was damaged.

FIRST AID: Chris returned to the beach house where his family was staying. He washed the wounds with a hose at the house. Fifteen minutes later, EMS arrived and dressed the wounds with gauze bandages.. He was transported to the hospital by ambulance, arriving there 45 minutes after he was bitten by the shark. Chris began feeling pain when he arrived at the hospital..

TREATMENT: The teen was given Vicodin when he arrived at Brunswick Community Hospital. His wound was surgically repaired and the shark's teeth removed from his arm. He was released from the hospital Saturday or Sunday morning. Following his release, he was treated by Dr. Mark Evans in Virginia.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Phillip saw the shark as it bit Chris and reported that the shark was 4.5 to 5 feet in length. Tooth fragments were also recovered from Chris arm.

SOURCES: NBC News, <http://www.nbc17.com/news/4736620/detail.html> - and - <http://www.nbc17.com/news/4736620/detail.html?rss=tri&psp=news> WIS10, <http://www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=3604935&nav=0RaPcEpo>

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Clay Creswell, Global Shark Accident File

