

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE GSAF 2005.08.21

DATE: Sunday August 21, 2005

LOCATION: The incident took place at 34th Avenue North in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, USA. 33.8°N, 78.7°W

NAME: Jacob Kolessar

DESCRIPTION: He is an eight-year-old male from Mountain Top, Pennsylvania.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: (See next page)

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, August 19, 2005

ENVIRONMENT: The boy said he saw a school of fish in the area immediately before he was bitten.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 25 to 30 yards

TIME: Morning



NARRATIVE: On Saturday, the Kolessar family arrived in Myrtle Beach for a week-long vacation. They had only been at the shore for a few hours on Sunday and Jacob was swimming with his grandfather, John Grassi. "I was swimming, jumping over waves, and I felt something tug on me," said Jacob. "I looked down and looked under me and saw a fish tail, and I looked under me where I was bit and I saw three feeder fish for the shark. Then, I ran out of the water."

INJURY: Jacob was bitten below his left arm. "I thought it was just like a cut at first or something," Jacob said. There were two deep lacerations on his back and several puncture wounds.

FIRST AID: Jacob's father, Bob Kolessar said "I scooped him up and yelled for people to dial 911 and they did. Next he grabbed a towel and applied pressure to his son's wounds. Kolessar and his wife, Stacey, accompanied Jacob to a local hospital while the couple's three other boys were taken back to the hotel by Kolessar's parents, Plains Township residents John and Marlene Grassi. Concerned strangers helped the grandparents lug their belongings to the family van.

TREATMENT: The boy was taken to Grand Strand Regional Medical Center, where the wounds were closed with 16 to 20 stitches. He was released from the hospital Sunday afternoon.

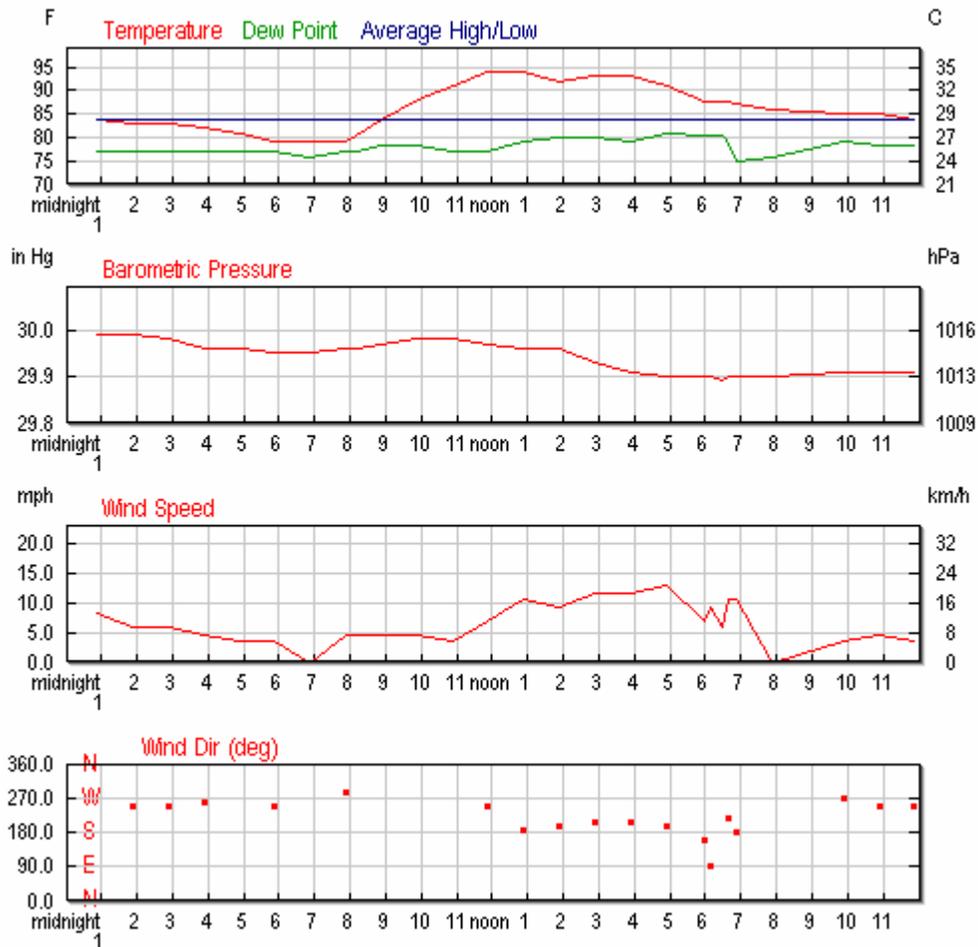
SPECIES INVOLVED: Unknown. "It might have been a sandbar shark or a blacktip shark, Cain said. Those sharks feed closer to shore," said Sgt. Cain. Photos of the injury will be sent to the S.C. Department of Natural Resources to determine whether the boy was bitten by a shark, according to Sgt. Cain.

SOURCES: Kelly Marshall, The Sun News, <http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/mld/myrtlebeachonline/news/local/12443687.htm>
Jon Meys, News Watch 16, August 31, 2005;

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NOTE: “An unconfirmed bite was reported near Wrightsville Beach, N.C., earlier this month, according to a park ranger at Fort Fisher Recreational Area.” Clay Creswell subsequently contacted the ranger who said the press report was incorrect; he knew of no attack near Wrightsville Beach.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Clay Creswell, Global Shark Accident File



Weather at North Myrtle Beach on August 21, 2005