

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: GSAF 2006.07.13

DATE: Thursday July 13, 2006

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Mediterranean Sea at San Juan Beach, Alicante, Spain

NAME: Unknown

DESCRIPTION: A seven-year-old female

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 93% of the Moon was illuminated.

SEA CONDITIONS: There is usually a moderate surge at San Juan beach.

ENVIRONMENT: San Juan beach is a wide (85 metres), windy beach located 10 kilometres north of the city of Alicante. The beach is seven kilometres in length and extends from the Cabo of Las Huertas to the Beach of Mutxavista. The beach is lined with resorts, restaurants and shops.

NARRATIVE: The girl's hand and wrist were severely bitten. Afterwards, the beach was closed to the public and police officers attempted to catch the fish.

INJURY: The girl was bitten on the hand and wrist. Apparently, the injury was serious. According to the press, she was "seriously mauled and left in critical condition".

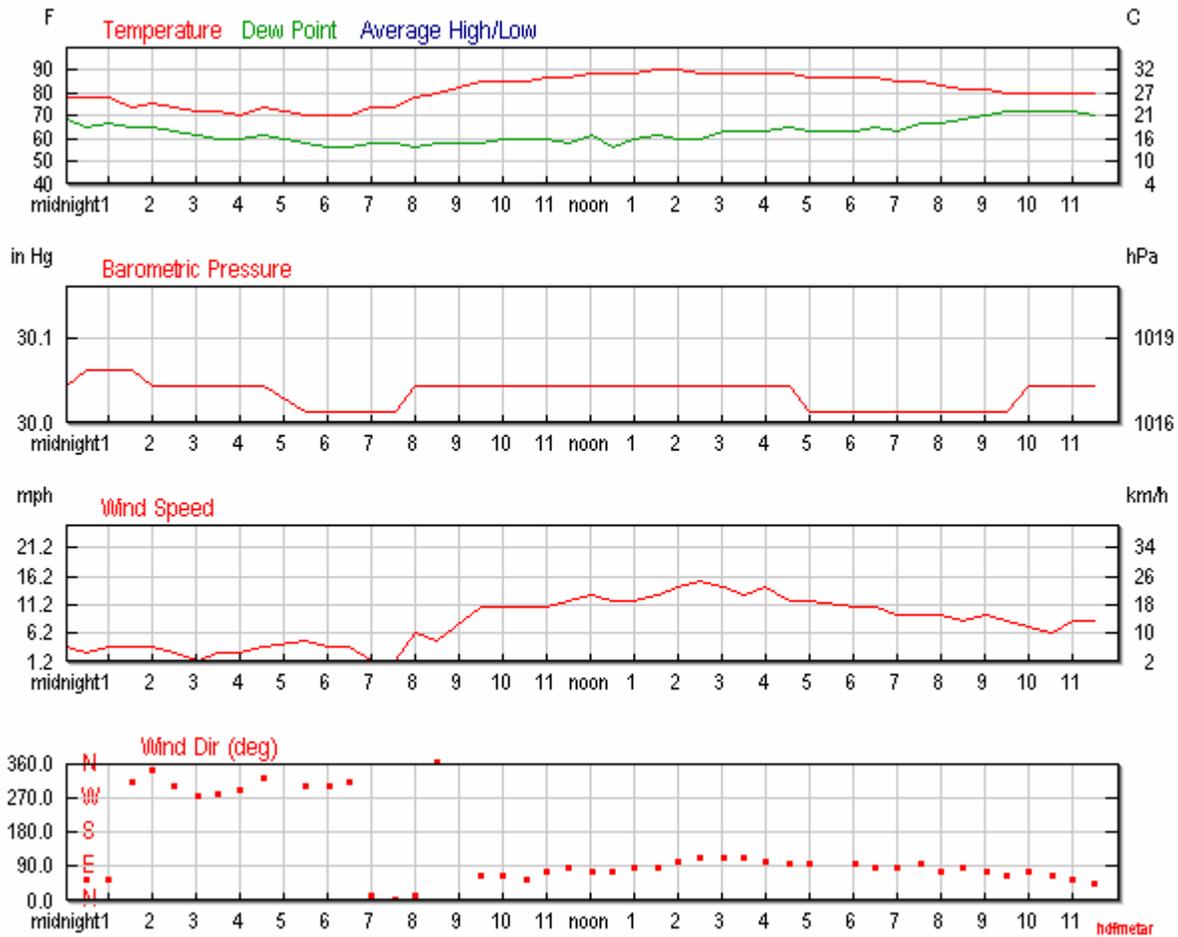
TREATMENT: The girl was transported to Alicante's General Hospital for surgical repair of her injury.

SPECIES: Initially, it was thought the girl's injury was caused by a shark, but San Juan Health Councillor Juan Zaragoza believed it was caused by a bluefish.

SOURCE: <http://www.thinkspain.com/news-spain/11473>

REPORTED BY: Christofer Johansson, Global Shark Accident File





Weather at Alicante, Spain, on July 13, 2006



A bluefish of this size could inflict a nasty injury on the wrist of a small child.



The photo shows Local Police officers involved in the operation to catch the fish as the beach was closed to the public.

<http://www.thinkspain.com/news-spain/11473>
Friday, July 14, 2006

Young girl in shark attack alert
By: valencialife.net

A seven year old girl was bitten on the hand as she swam yesterday off San Juan beach in Alicante. She was taken to Alicante's General Hospital where her condition was said to be serious after undergoing an operation. Initial rumors that the injuries had been caused by a baby shark were soon dismissed, and the general opinion now is that she was bitten by a bluefish. The theory put forward by San Juan Health Councillor Juan Zaragoza is that the fish, which only feeds on other species, mistook the girl's hand for prey as generally the breed is not considered dangerous. The photo shows Local Police officers involved in the operation to catch the fish as the beach was closed to the public. It is possible that it will be re-opened today, according to a town council spokesman.

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Babelfish Translation of Text: The City council of Alicante suspects that the fish that bit yesterday to a girl of seven years in the beach of San Juan is to golfar, a powerful and ferocious animal equipped with a great mouth and jaws filled with teeth in form of mountain range. It can reach to a meter and means of length, and gets to weigh more than 12 kilos. Golfar receives different names according to the zone from the Spanish Mediterranean coast: in Barcelona lliri or titolero is called to him; in Cadiz and Huelva, chova; in the Palms, king; and in Valencia, anjova or tallahams. One is a fish of the Pomatomidae family, who is present in the Atlantic Ocean, from the Portuguese island of Madeira to South Africa; in the Mediterranean and tropical and subtropical seas worldwide. Generally usually it measures 60 centimeters, and he is full of small very appreciable grudges that even cover their head, the base of the fins and the throat. Its great mouth tells on a superior jaw of 15 or 16 teeth and one inferior one from 18 to 20, all of them acierated and triangular, had in form mountain range. It is a fast and very voracious predator, of mainly diurnal activity, that lives on the high seas and that usually approaches the coast, mainly in summer to feed itself on fish, of size even superior to his. The experts of the alicantino City council think that the fish, when noticing the foam produced by the movement of the girl in the water, could confuse it with one of its prey and bite it.

Original Text: El Ayuntamiento de Alicante sospecha que el pez que ayer mordió a una niña de siete años en la playa de San Juan es un golfar, un animal potente y feroz dotado con una gran boca y unas mandíbulas repletas de dientes en forma de sierra. Puede alcanzar hasta un metro y medio de longitud, y llega a pesar más de 12 kilos. El golfar recibe distintos nombres según la zona de la costa mediterránea española: en Barcelona se le llama lliri o titolero; en Cádiz y Huelva, chova; en Las Palmas, rey; y en Valencia, anjova o tallahams. Se trata de un pez de la familia *Pomatomidae*, que está presente en el océano Atlántico, desde la isla portuguesa de Madeira hasta Sudáfrica; en el Mediterráneo y en mares tropicales y subtropicales de todo el mundo. Por lo general suele medir 60 centímetros, y está lleno de pequeñas escamas muy apreciables que cubren incluso su cabeza, la base de las aletas y la garganta. Su gran boca cuenta con una mandíbula superior de 15 o 16 dientes y una inferior de 18 a 20, todos ellos acerados y triangulares, dispuestos en forma de sierra. Es un depredador rápido y muy voraz, de actividad principalmente diurna, que vive en alta mar y que suele acercarse a la costa, sobre todo en verano para alimentarse de peces, de tamaño incluso superior al suyo. Los expertos del Ayuntamiento alicantino creen que el pez, al notar la espuma producida por el movimiento de la niña en el agua, pudo confundirla con una de sus presas y morderla.