

ACTIVITY: Shark tagging

CASE: GSAF 2007.05.00

DATE: May 2007

LOCATION: The incident took place in Bimini, Bahamas.

NAME: Sabrina Garcia

DESCRIPTION: She was a 20-year-old female, a marine biologist. She is 5'6" tall and weighs 155 pounds. She was wearing a 3/4 mm neoprene wetsuit, black center and grey extremities. She had no injuries prior to the event and did not have her menstrual period.

BACKGROUND

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea was calm.

ENVIRONMENT: Mangroves. Gill nets had been set for shark research and there was movement from fish in the nets.

DEPTH OF WATER: Three feet

NARRATIVE: Three people, including Sabrina, were in the water, and the two others were within 10 ft (3 m) of her. She was removing a shark from a pen to transfer to a boat for tagging. The shark had to be lifted over the cage, and as result of being lifted out of the water, it bent backwards and bit Sabrina. She describes the shark as being irritated and defensive.

INJURY: Three scratches on inner arm above elbow and a deeper laceration behind the elbow on the inner arm.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: None

SPECIES: The incident involved a >1 m lemon shark.

NOTE: This was a provoked incident; it involved a captive shark.

SOURCE: Interview with Sabrina Garcia on January 17, 2009.



Sabrina Garcia

