

ACTIVITY: Jumping into the water

CASE: [GSAF 2007.08.07](#)

DATE: Tuesday August 7, 2007

LOCATION: The incident took place at Bud n' Mary's Sportsfishing Marina, Islamorada, Monroe County, Florida, USA.

24.9°N, 80.6°W

NAME: Ashley Silverman

DESCRIPTION: She is a 19-year-old female from Jacksonville.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Last Quarter, August 5, 2007; New Moon, August 12, 2007.

ENVIRONMENT: The incident took place off the dock at a marina which caters to sport fishermen. The marina has a bait shop and catches are hung and gutted at dockside. Silverman said people at Bud n' Mary's told her they had spotted bull sharks in the water around the marina in recent days.

TIME: Afternoon

NARRATIVE: Ashley Silverman jumped off a boat docked at the marina to cool off. "At first I thought I was hit by a boat's propeller," said Silverman. "I didn't know what happened. There was blood everywhere; I saw my bone and pieces of flesh in the water." Silverman's boyfriend 27-year-old Christopher Wood, with whom she had been vacationing, heard her scream. He jumped into the water and hoisted her out of the water.

INJURY: Plastic surgeon Randy Miller said Silverman lost about two pints of blood. She sustained soft tissue damage and deep lacerations, running about 25 centimeters long and 6 centimeters wide to the "middle inside forearm". The doctor said the wound appears to be a bite from a large marine animal. "The impressions left by teeth are directed inward, which is how sharks' teeth are positioned," he said.



Bud n' Mary's Marina is located at 79851 Overseas Highway in Islamorada



Ashley Silverman

TREATMENT: Paramedics transported Silverman to Mariner's Hospital in Tavernier, then airlifted to Baptist Hospital in Kendall where she was scheduled for surgery on Wednesday. Doctors expect to work on Silverman for up to 12 hours restoring nerves and blood vessels.

SPECIES: Considering the habitat, it is probable that many species of fishes were foraging around the docks, but lacking pre-op photographs of the wound it is not possible for GSAF physicians to confirm the species involved in this incident. Silverman and her companions did not see a shark, but Dr. Randy Miller of Baptist Hospital said the bite marks were those of a shark, possibly a bull shark about 10 feet in length.

SOURCES: <http://www1.wsvn.com/news/articles/local/MI57612/>; Local10.com, <http://www.local10.com/news/13850196/detail.html>; First Coast News, <http://www.firstcoastnews.com/news/local/news-article.aspx?storyid=88659>

