

ACTIVITY: Floating

CASE: [GSAF 2007.08.15](#)

DATE: Wednesday August 15, 2007

LOCATION: The incident took place in Sarasota Bay, Florida, USA.
27.4°N, 82.5°W

NAME: Andrea Lynch

DESCRIPTION: She is a 20-year-old female.



BACKGROUND

WEATHER: It had rained in the early evening but by 20h53, the sky was clearing and the wind was dropping. The air temperature was 78.1°F [25.6°C], dew point was 73.9°F [23.3°C], humidity 87%, and the sea level pressure 30.00 in [1015.7 hPa] and rising.

MOON PHASE: New Moon, August 12, 2007.

SEA CONDITIONS The conditions were perfect for observing the marine phenomenon of bioluminescence, Lynch said. The boat was isolated, the wind was light and there was little light other than the green glow when swimmers or fish stirred the water.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 200 yards

TIME: Night

NARRATIVE: Lynch and three friends took an inflatable dinghy out to a New College-owned boat anchored out in the bay. Two friends were standing in the boat and another was swimming with Lynch. She was floating on her back near the boat when the shark bit her side, shook her, and then let her go.

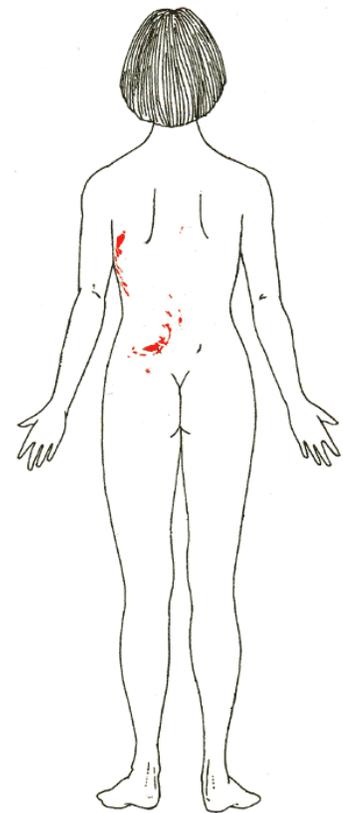
When she got back in the boat, she told her friends that she might have been bitten by a shark but they thought she was joking or mistaken. "I reached back with my hand and felt all these gashes on me, and there was blood running down my body and pooling in the boat," she said. They planned to go back to shore, but in the chaos, the inflatable dinghy floated away. Nobody wanted to jump back in the water to bring it back. They called 911.

It took four hands pressing shirts against the wounds to get the bleeding under control. A rescue boat arrived about 20 minutes later to take Lynch to Sarasota Memorial Hospital.

INJURY: Lynch had a crescent of 17 puncture wounds to her lateral torso. Doctors told her that the shark's teeth penetrated between her ribs, got close to her lungs, but missed all the major organs.

TREATMENT: It took more than 100 sutures to close the wounds on the girl's torso.

SPECIES: Robert Hueter of Mote Marine Labs thought Lynch may have been bitten by a bull shark about six feet in length.



SOURCES: The Charlotte Observer, Saturday August 18, 2007,
<http://www.charlotte.com/nation/story/241504.html>;

Todd Ruger, Herald Tribune, <http://heraldtribune.com/article/20070818/NEWS/708180480>

Daily Mail, August 22, 2007

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in_article_id=477028&in_page_id=177