

**ACTIVITY:** Boogie boarding

**CASE:** [GSAF 2008.07.05](#)

**DATE:** Saturday, July 5, 2008

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Litchfield Beach, Georgetown County, South Carolina, USA.  
33.4717°N, 79.1017°W

**NAME:** Julianne Lunti

**DESCRIPTION:** She is a 17-year-old female from Columbia. She is 5'5", weighs 120 pounds and was wearing a black bikini.

### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** At 13h45, Myrtle Beach recorded scattered clouds and visibility of 10 miles [16.1 km]. The air temperature was 86°F [30°C], dew point 73.4°F [23°C], humidity 66%, sea level pressure 30.01 inches [1016.1 hPa], and wind direction was South at 12.7 mph [20.4 km/h]. Minutes after the incident, it began to rain.

**MOON PHASE:** New Moon, July 2, 2008

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The ocean was green-gray and choppy, with six-inch visibility. The sea surface temperature was about 81°F.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Midway Inlet, approximately two miles to the south, is the closest inlet to Litchfield beach. The water in the inlet is shallow and there is little boat traffic. Murrells Inlet lies about four miles to the north and is a deep inlet with considerable boat traffic and activity. Litchfield Beach is long and wide with a smooth grade and there are no sand bars in the area. There had been some fishing activity for whiting within 100 yards of the incident site between 10h00 and 11h00, and there were baitfish in the surf zone throughout the entire day.

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Knee-deep

**TIME:** 14h21

**NARRATIVE:** Hundreds of people were on the beach, and there was considerable water activity in the area when the incident took place (i.e. swimming, boogie boarding and wading in the surf). Other people were farther from the beach than Julianne. She had been riding a boogie-board, but when she got up to walk inshore, her foot was bitten. The animal initially would not let go of her foot and she started screaming. When she was able to lift her foot out of the water, the animal released its grip and swam off and she ran to the beach.

**INJURY:** She sustained lacerations to the dorsum, lateral aspect and toes of the right foot. Midway Fire Rescue spokesman Bob Beebe said injuries appear to be consistent with a shark bite.

**TREATMENT:** On the beach, by-standers wrapped Julianne's wounds in a towel and someone applied a tourniquet to her right leg. Five minutes later, Midway fire and rescue arrived on site, and removed the tourniquet. They washed the wounds with sterile water and wrapped them with gauze. Midway Fire transported the patient by ambulance to Waccamaw



Emergency Room where the injuries were sutured.

**SPECIES:** Not identified; the boogie boarder did not see the shark.

**SOURCES:** The Sun News, <http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com>; interviews, et. al

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Clay Creswell, Global Shark Accident File