



**ACTIVITY:** Wading

**CASE:** [GSAF 2008.08.12](#)

**DATE:** Tuesday August 12, 2008

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean 400 yards south of Flagler Avenue in New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

**NAME:** Emma Klopchin

**DESCRIPTION:** She is a 13-year-old female from upstate New York. She is 5'2" tall and weighs 95 pounds. She was wearing earrings and a light blue bikini.

### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** At the time of the accident, the sky was sunny and the air temperature was 88°F. By 12h47, New Smyrna Beach reported mostly cloudy skies and visibility of 10 miles [16.1 km]. The air temperature was 86°F [30°C], dew point 71.6°F [22°C], humidity 62%, sea level pressure 29.91 inches [1012.8 hPa], and wind direction was WSW at 9.2 mph [14.8 km/h]. Less than two hours after the accident at 13h53, visibility had dropped to five miles [8 km] and there were thunderstorms and rain, The air temperature also dropped to 78.8°F

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[26°C], dew point was unchanged but humidity increased to 78%, sea level pressure and wind direction were unchanged, but the wind increased to 13.8 mph [22.2 km/h].

**MOON PHASE:** First Quarter, August 8, 2008. Full Moon, August 16, 2008

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The sea surface temperature was 80°F and the sea was flat calm.

The sea was “crystal clear” but the water was murky around the incident site.

**ENVIRONMENT:** The incident took place at a sandy tidal beach in shallow water where a large school of bait fish was swimming. Several dolphins were in the area and numerous birds (pelicans) were diving into the water, apparently feeding on the bait fish.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 50 feet

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Four feet

**TIME:** 12h05

**NARRATIVE:** The girl was wading with a relative. They were watching dolphins when she felt something hit her leg. She went immediately to shore.

**INJURY:** The girl sustained multiple puncture wounds to her lower right leg and a 2.5-inch laceration to her right calf.

**FIRST AID:** The Beach Patrol provided first aid.

**TREATMENT:** The girl was transported to Bert Fish Medical Center in New Smyrna Beach where she received 36 stitches to her leg before being released.

**SPECIES:** Not identified at this time, however, doctors at Bert Fish Medical Center recovered a tooth fragment and gave it to the girl as a souvenir.

**SOURCES:** MyFoxOrlando,

[Myfoxorlando.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=7191806&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1](http://myfoxorlando.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=7191806&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1)

WFTV, <http://www.wftv.com/news/17172354/detail.html>

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Captain Scott Petersohn