

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2008.08.22

DATE: Friday August 22, 2008

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Surf City, Topsail Beach, Pender County, North Carolina, USA.

NAME: Jessica Brothers

DESCRIPTION: She is a 20-year-old female, a Pender County Ocean Rescue agent. She is 5'2" tall and weighs 150-160 pounds. Her surf shirt top was navy blue/black in color pink flower designs on the bathing suit bottom. She wore an earring in her left ear, and a black surfboard leash. She was not menstruating.

SURFBOARD: Off-white 7'6" trifin with black fins



Jessica Brothers

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sky was overcast. At 17h56, New River recorded mostly cloudy skies and visibility of 10 miles [16.1 km]. The air temperature was 81°F [27.2°C], dew point 66.9°F [19.4°C], humidity 62%, sea level pressure 30.19 in [1022.3 hPa], and wind direction was ESE at 10.4 mph [16.7 km/h].

MOON PHASE: Last Quarter, August 23, 2008. Sunset occurred at 19h49.

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea was choppy and murky with three- to four-foot visibility. The estimated water temperature was 82° to 85°F. There was a South-to-North current, but no

channel was present. Mean low tide occurred at 19h22.

ENVIRONMENT: No diving birds or dolphins were observed, but there is usually some fishing activity near the old pier.

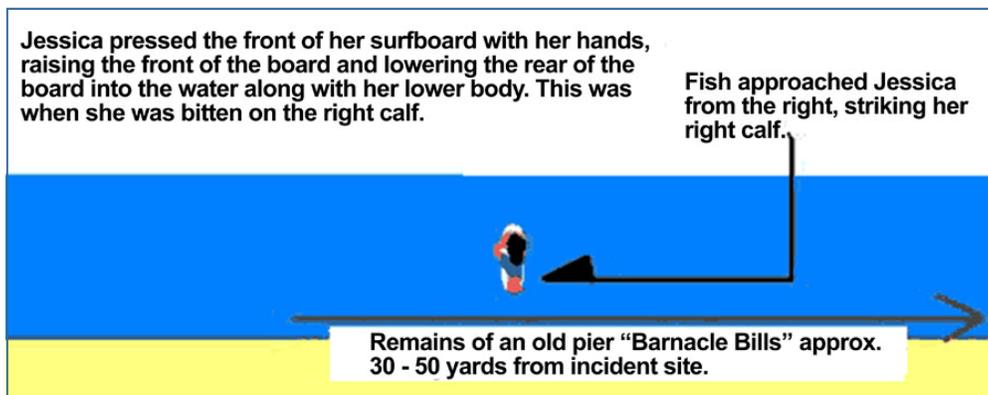
DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 10 to 20 yards

DISTANCE FROM ROCKS OR PIER: She was 30 to 50 yards from the remains of the old fishing pier. There is usually some fishing activity near the pier.

DEPTH OF WATER: Five feet

TIME: 18h00

NARRATIVE: Approximately 10 people were on the beach, and Jessica's friend was in the water approximately 15 to 30 feet shoreward of her. Jessica had been in the water about 40 seconds. She had paddled past the first breakers, which were at a shallow depth and was facing seaward when she pressed down on the front of the board with her hands, which lowered the back of her board and her lower body into the water. Just then she felt something approach underwater from her right. As her lower body was submerged she felt something hit her leg. Jessica says it felt like she was hit by a 2x4. She turned around and saw something splash the water behind her. The duration of the strike was less than a second. Jessica left the water, along with her friend. Jessica's other friends on the beach decided not to surf after what had just occurred.



INJURY: The patient has an oval shaped bite on her right calf. The force of the strike resulted in severe bruising around the bite area. The bite is approximately 3" in vertical height by 4½" horizontal width.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Jessica left the beach, went home and cleaned the wound. Several tooth fragments were retrieved from Jessica's leg during cleaning of the wound.

SPECIES: The shape of the wound does not resemble a typical shark bite, but bears a resemblance to that of an American anglerfish, *Lophius americanus*. Although tooth fragments were recovered, the photo of them is so fuzzy that it is not possible to identify the species involved in this incident.

SOURCE: Jessica Brothers

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Clay Creswell, Global Shark Accident File