

ACTIVITY: Spearfishing
CASE: GSAF 2009.01.00
DATE: January 2009
LOCATION: Guantanamo, Cuba

NAME: John
DESCRIPTION: He is a subcontractor for the Department of Defense at Guantanamo Bay, where he and others were digging up and exploding discarded ordnance (bombs) for the U.S. Army.

BACKGROUND
DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 feet

NARRATIVE: John shot and bagged a fish. A short time later he decided to leave the water, but lacking boots which would have permitted him to walk over the top of the reef, he had to swim to shore. As he was swimming, a shark came from behind and bit his calf. “[It felt] like someone slammed me with a baseball bat,” he said. John turned around and saw the shark yanking at his leg. He struck the shark on its snout and it swam away.

INJURY: Lacerations to the right calf.

FIRST AID: John clambered onto a nearby rock reef where he “tied off his wound as best he could with his wet t-shirt. Then he flagged down his friend, who swam with John on his back until John could clamber through the sand.” The shark followed the men inshore.

TREATMENT: He was taken by ambulance to the military hospital where his injuries were sutured, then he was flown to Miami where he was admitted to a hospital, remaining there for at least eight days.

SPECIES: According to the diver, the accident involved a bull shark.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Christofer Johansson, Global Shark Accident File.

