

**ACTIVITY:** Swimming

**CASE:** [GSAF 2009.07.04](#)

**DATE:** Saturday July 4, 2009

**LOCATION:** The accident took place just west of Elliott Key Harbor in Biscayne National Park, Florida, USA.

**NAME:** Carmen Dominguez

**DESCRIPTION:** She is a 43-year-old female.

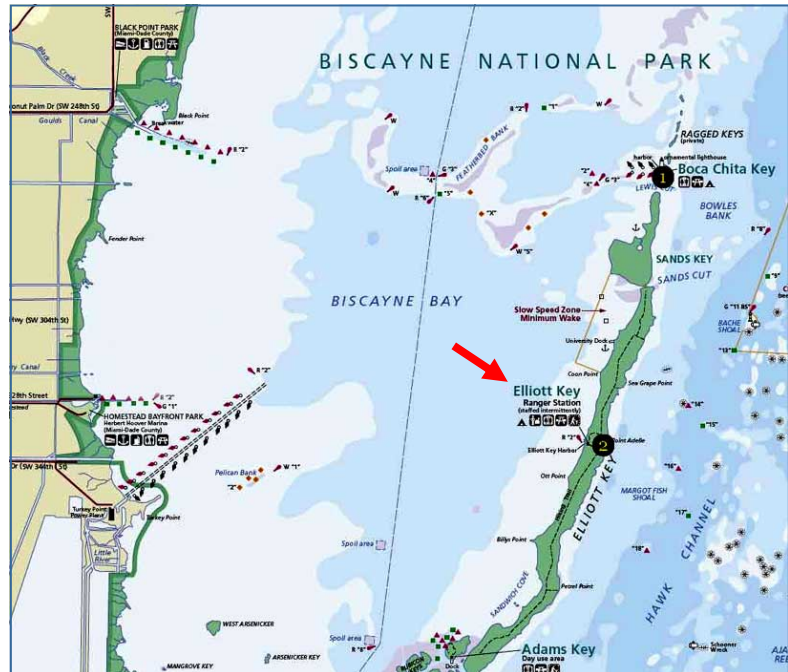
### BACKGROUND

**WATER CONDITIONS:** The water was “crystal-clear” according to Chief Ranger Didier Carod.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Elliott Key is the northernmost of the true Florida Keys. It is uninhabited and only accessible by boat.

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Four feet

**TIME:** 15h45



**NARRATIVE:** Carmen Dominguez was celebrating the holiday with friends, swimming and sunbathing on the sandbar while her friends fished from a nearby boat. Her friends hooked a shark which fought and then escaped. Then the shark swam toward Dominguez who was swimming just a few feet away and bit her leg.

**INJURY:** Dominguez was bitten on her thigh. "It took a big chunk out of her leg, but luckily missed an artery," said Lt. Arnold Piedrahita, a spokesman for Miami-Dade Fire Rescue.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** Friends took Dominguez by boat to Homestead Bayfront Park Marina on the 9700 block of SW 328 Street where paramedics tended the injured woman. One source said paramedics transported her to Homestead Hospital while another says she transported to Baptist Memorial Hospital.

**SPECIES:** The incident involved a nurse shark, about six feet in length.

**SOURCE:** Miami Herald (South Miami-Dade), July 25, 2009, <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/miami-dade/communities/south/story/1156905.html>

**NOTE:** This was a provoked incident; the shark had been hooked moments before it bit the woman.