ACTIVITY: Swimming
CASE: GSAF 2009.09.26
DATE: Saturday September 26, 2009
LOCATION: Off 5th Street, Key Colony Beach, Monroe County, Florida, USA.
NAME: Daniel Callahan

Daniel Callahan

BACKGROUND
WEATHER: At 17h53, Marathon recorded mostly cloudy skies and visibility of 10 miles. The air temperature was 84°F, dew point 73.9°F, humidity 72%, sea level pressure 29.93 in and variable winds of 3.5 mph.
MOON PHASE: First Quarter, September 26, 2009.
TIME: 17h30 [5:30 pm]

NARRATIVE: Daniel Callahan dived into the canal and "seconds later" he was injured by the shark. "Everything probably took less than 30 seconds," he said. "I dove in and I get hit from behind on my right foot. It really felt more like a hammer or a sledgehammer."

"It starts to pull me down. I turn and see the shark with my foot in its mouth, and with my left leg kick it with all of my might. I know a little bit about sharks, so I knew I needed to get loose."

In his panic, Callahan neglected to use a ladder he'd set against the seawall to get out after the swim, opting for another ladder instead. "I hit the shark on the nose; it releases me for a couple seconds; I take two or three massive strokes over to the seawall and, without even thinking, climb up [a] barnacle-encased ladder. That immediately puts a nice big barnacle through my left foot, but I didn't even feel that," he said.

INJURY: The swimmer sustained lacerations to his right foot.

FIRST AID: Dorothy Griffith, daughter of Callahan's good friend Tod Griffith, witnessed the accident. Tod, Dorothy and Callahan's daughter Katie, wrapped his foot with a T-shirt and duct tape to try to stop the bleeding and took him to the emergency room.

TREATMENT: Callahan was treated at Fishermen's Hospital [3301 Overseas Highway, Marathon, Florida 33050] where more than 130 stitches were needed to repair the injury.

SPECIES: The incident was thought to involve a bull shark about eight feet in length.

SOURCE: Ryan McCarthy, October 7, 2009,
 http://www.keysnet.com/news/story/147736.html