

CASE: GSAF 2009.12.06

DATE: Sunday, December 6, 2009

LOCATION: Adventure Aquarium, Camden, New Jersey, USA.

NAME: Robert Large

DESCRIPTION: He is a 58-year-old male, 5'10" tall and weighs 175 lbs. He was wearing a full farmer john 5/7ml black wetsuit. He has served as a volunteer diver at the aquarium for 19 years.



BACKGROUND

TANK: The water temperature was approximately 65°F. Although the tank is about 15 feet deep, the accident occurred at a 2.5-foot depth.

TIME: 13h00

NARRATIVE: Volunteer divers Ed Frankel and Bob Large were gearing up to dive. They routinely climb down a ladder, put on their mask and fins and step into the water. As the shark was swimming past Bob, he accidentally backed into the shark and was bitten. He did not feel any pain, just a vise-like grip on his calf. Thinking it was a turtle, he turned around and saw the shark. He moved his right leg closer, thinking the shark would let go. When the shark remained clamped to his calf, Bob turned 180° and as he did so, the shark released its grip on his leg. Ed, who was four feet away from Bob, saw the shark's tail as it broke the water and saw the shark swim away. Bob climbed up the ladder and said he was bitten.



INJURY: Bob sustained 15 punctures and several deep lacerations to his lower calf, ankle, and bottom of his foot, and 25% of his Achilles tendon was damaged.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Fellow diver Ed Frankel provided first aid and Bob was taken by ambulance to Cooper Medical Center for treatment. An x-ray suggested that a tooth fragment was retained in the wound, but none was found during surgery. He remained in the hospital under observation for 2.5 days. On January 2 he returned to the hospital due to a wound infection and remained there for five days.

SPECIES: The incident involved a sandtiger shark about seven feet in length. All of the sharks in the tank had been there for some time so it was expected that they were acclimated to divers entering and exiting the tank.

SOURCE: Philadelphia Daily News,
http://articles.philly.com/2010-12-17/news/25293610_1_shark-bites-sand-tiger-dive-team#ixzz18tu265HxWatch%20sports%20videos%20you%20won%27t%20find%20anywhere%20else

NOTE: This is considered a provoked accident for two reasons: 1) It involved a captive shark, and 2) the shark did not approach the diver; the diver backed into the shark.