

ACTIVITY: Treading water

CASE: GSAF 2010.04.04

DATE: Sunday April 4, 2010

LOCATION: The accident took place opposite the Sonesta Beach Resort & Casino at Na'ama Bay, Sharm El-Sheikh, South Sinai Peninsula, Egypt.

NAME: James Elliott

DESCRIPTION: He is a 24-year-old male from Blackpool, England. He is 5'11" tall, weighs 160 pounds and was wearing white and green long swim shorts.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 14h00, Sharm El-Sheikh recorded clear skies. The air temperature was 93.2°F, dew point 39.2°F, humidity 15%, sea level pressure 29.89 inches and wind direction was ENE at 9.2 mph.

MOON PHASE: Last Quarter, April 6, 2010; New Moon, April 14, 2010.

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was clear.

ENVIRONMENT: James sister told him that a person near the jetty had caught their hand on the coral and was bleeding.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: More than 40 metres; he was beyond the floating jetty. (see map on page 3)

DEPTH OF WATER: More than 20 metres (James couldn't see the seafloor).

TIME: 14h00

NARRATIVE: There were about 100 people in the water. James Elliot was in the water with his father, Peter, who was about 15 or 20 feet away. Just as James turned away from his father and took a few strokes, the shark grabbed his lower left leg and pulled him beneath the surface. As James pushed backwards, the shark released him. The shark then dashed toward James, "so fast half of its body and dorsal fin were out of the water," said James. "As it got to me, it suddenly turned away."

Peter swam to his son. A watersports boat from one of the hotels was passing about 40 feet way. Peter was able to flag down the boat, and James was taken to shore.



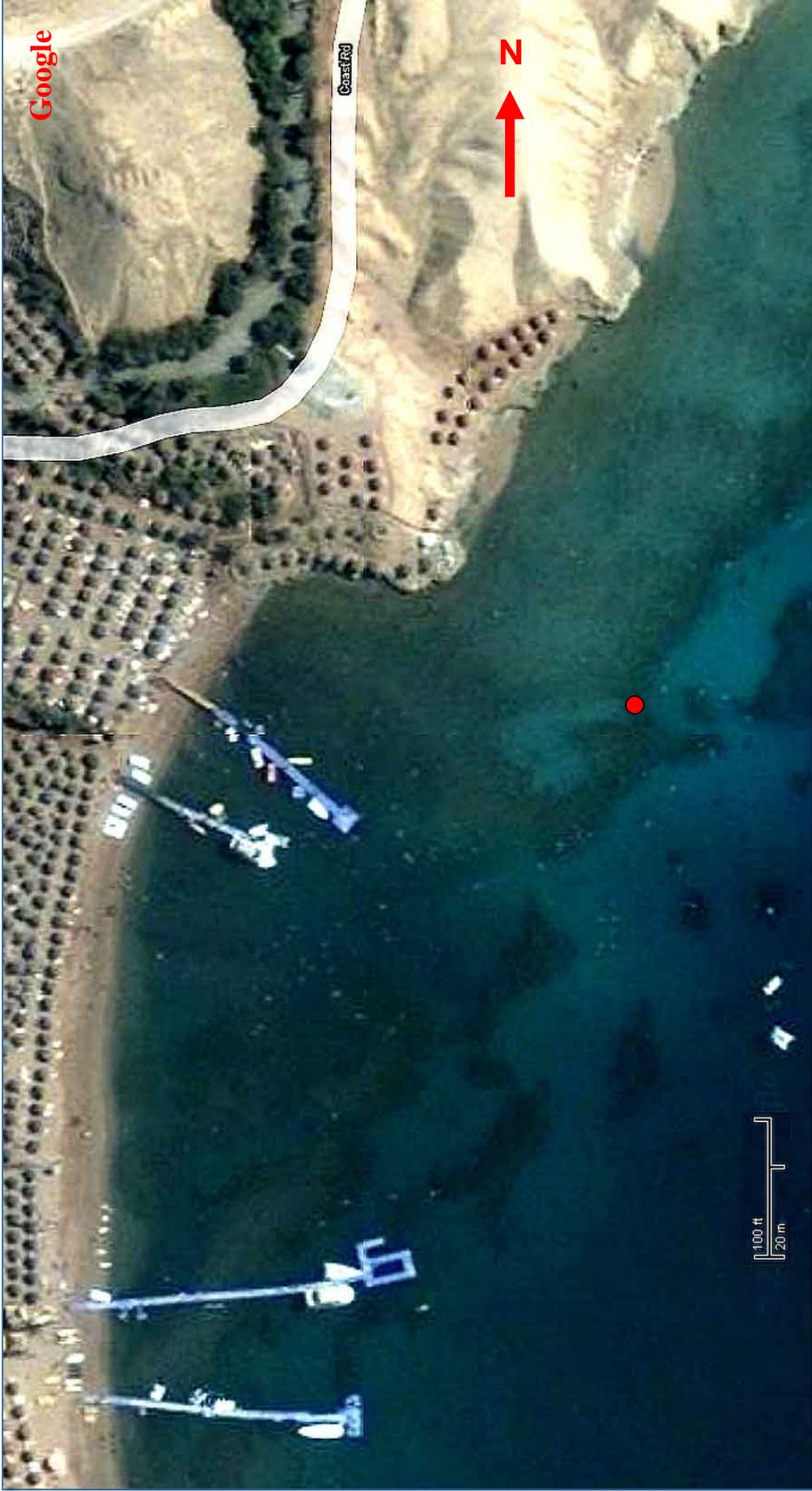
INJURY: James' left ankle and foot were bitten by the shark. His Achilles tendon and tendons of his toes were severed.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: He was transported by ambulance to Sharm el-Sheikh International Hospital where an artery was sutured. Twelve hours later he was transported by ambulance to a hospital in Cairo, remaining there 2.5 days. Then, he flew home to England where surgeon Royal Preston re-attached the severed Achilles tendon and tendons in two toes.

SPECIES: According to James, the attack involved an oceanic whitetip shark about six feet in length.

SOURCES: Helen Steel & Jacqui Morely, Blackpool Gazette, April 16, 2010 & December 10, 2010; Phone interview with James Elliott on January 3, 2011 and subsequent email correspondence.





"I think that is about as accurate as we are going to get" ...James Elliott