

ACTIVITY: Swimming / playing

CASE: [GSAF 2012.06.26.c](#)

DATE: Tuesday June 26, 2012

LOCATION: The attack took place in the Atlantic Ocean just north of the Juno Beach Pier near the Marcinski Park Area in the 3800 block of A1A, Jupiter, Palm Beach County, Florida, USA. (see map on next page)

NAME: Nickolaus Bieber

DESCRIPTION: He is a six-year-old male from Palm Beach Gardens. He is approximately 48 inches tall, and weighs 50 lbs.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 18h53 West Palm Beach recorded scattered clouds and 10-mile visibility. The air temperature was 87.1°F, dew point 69.1°F, humidity 55%, sea level pressure 29.71 inches, and wind direction was SSW at 18.4 mph, with gusts to 28.8 mph.

MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 45% of the Moon was illuminated. First Quarter, June 26, 2012.

SEA CONDITIONS: Tropical Storm Debby was offshore which resulted in rough surf, turbid and murky water. Another report claims the water was 'clear' but 'choppy', and the sea surface temperature was in the low 80s.

DEPTH OF WATER: Waist-deep (2.5 feet)

TIME: 19h00

NARRATIVE: Nickolaus Bieber was body surfing in the waves close to shore when he was bitten. The boy told his mother, Christina Bieber, he saw a shark thrashing in the water. He turned to his mother, said "something bit me", and she pulled him out of the water. The Bieber's said both of their children were with them at the beach, they go swimming often, and this wasn't a reason for parents or kids to be afraid of the water. "It was a freak accident," Christina said.

INJURY: The posterior upper thigh of the boy was bitten by the shark. According to trauma surgeon, Dr. Michael West, although the bite involved soft tissue, it came very close to the bone, major vessels, and nerves. The bite, which Dr. West confirmed was made by a shark, extended over three quarters of the boy's right hip and thigh from the hip flexors and gluteus maximus, including hamstrings and tensor fasciae.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: His mother immediately grabbed a towel and wrapped it around Nickolaus' leg. A passerby on the beach then helped prepare him for the incoming ambulance. Nickolaus was transported via Trauma Hawk helicopter to St. Mary's Medical Center and was alert on arrival. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy was used to aid healing and tissue repair, and he remained hospitalized for two weeks.

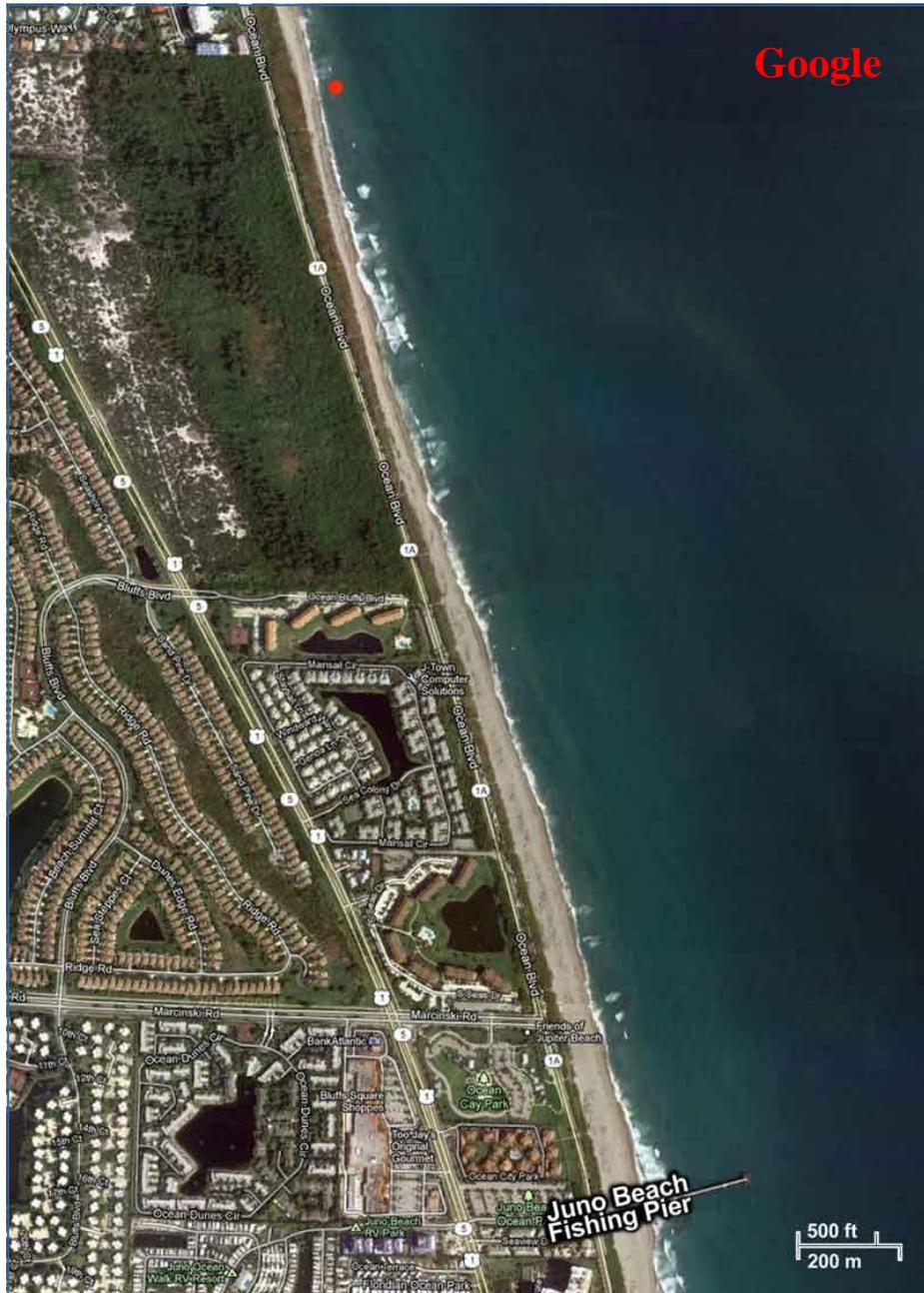
SPECIES: Nickolaus is positive it was a bull shark that bit him because he saw it as it approached him, according to his parents.

SOURCES: Christina Bieber (mother)

WPTV.com, June 27, 2012,

http://www.wptv.com/dpp/news/region_n_palm_beach_county/jupiter/911-call-shark-bites-6-year-old-boys-thigh

Palm Beach Post, June 27, 2012, <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/news/local/child-in-jupiter-taken-to-hospital-after-being-bit/nPfmf/>



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