

**ACTIVITY:** Standing

**CASE:** [GSAF 2013.07.11](#)

**DATE:** Thursday July 11, 2013

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean off the 200 block of Ocean Boulevard East at Holden Beach, Brunswick County, North Carolina, USA.

**NAME:** Barbara Corey

**DESCRIPTION:** She is a 63-year-old female, 60½" tall and weighing 102 lbs, wearing a 2 mm black spring suit. A surfing instructor from Supply, North Carolina, she has been surfing around the world for 50 years.

**SURFBOARD:** She was using a blue eight-foot Wave Storm board which had three black fins.



*Barbara Corey*

### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** It was a sunny day. The air temperature was 90°F and wind direction was south at 15 to 20 mph.

**MOON PHASE:** Waxing Crescent, 10% of the Moon was illuminated. New Moon, July 8, 2013.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** “The water was extremely rough, lots of current, water was murky due to onshore southern wind flow pushing the water in (our beach faces south,” reported Corey..

**ENVIRONMENT:** The surfer was unaware of any fishing activity in the vicinity. There was no unusual bird or fish activity before or after the incident, nor were any dolphins observed.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 150 feet, just in front of the impact zone.

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Three to four feet

**TIME:** 15h20

**NARRATIVE:** Approximately 50 people were on the beach and about 20 surfers and boogie boarders were in the water, but none were within 30 feet of Corey who was giving a surfing lesson to 10-year-old Cassandra Calloway, who was wearing a leash attached to the surfboard. She had been in the water for 30 minutes and was facing shoreward — holding the board for her student who was unable to control the board due to the current — when the shark approached from her left, grabbed and shook her right ankle and thrashed around. Corey immediately yelled at her student to run to shore.

Corey felt the shark bite her twice, but it did not attempt to push or pull her through the water or make an attempt to pull her beneath the surface. She held on to her surfboard, kicked the shark with her free foot, and the fish released its hold and swam away.

Corey pulled herself onto her board. “When I got into shallower water. I told my student to get off the leash ‘cause it was slowing her down and me,” said Corey. “Then her brother ran out and picked her up. She was in about knee-deep water by then. I rode the board almost to the beach then her mom came out and picked me up and carried me to a blanket.”

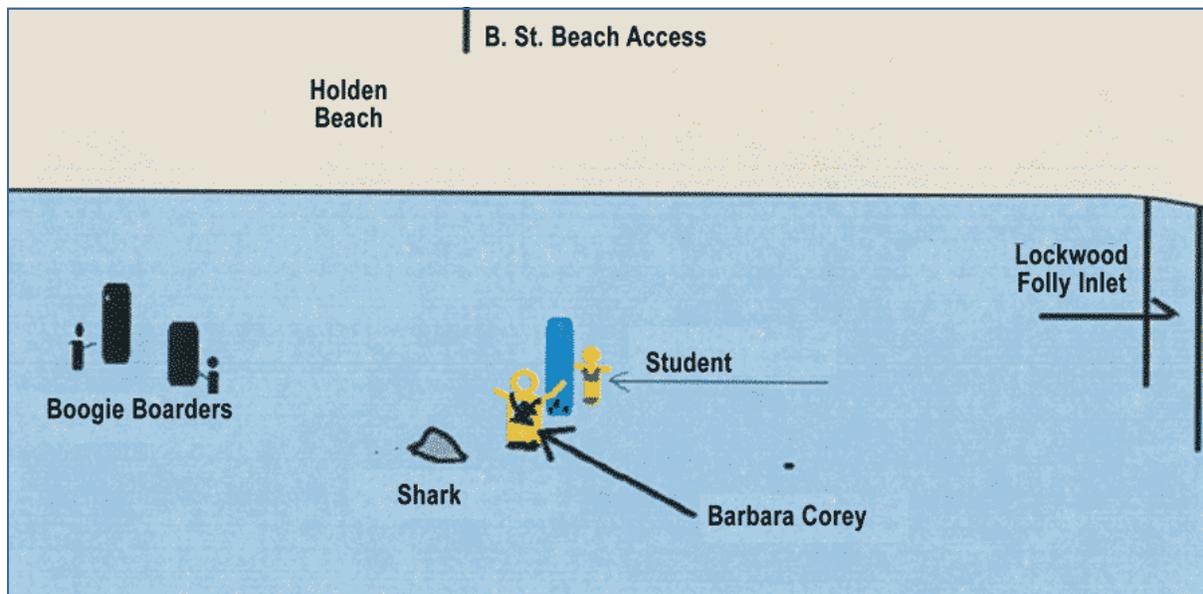
**INJURY:** She sustained punctures and lacerations to her right foot and ankle. All tendons in

her foot were severed including her Achilles tendon. Her surfboard was not bitten by the shark.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** people on the beach provided assistance. Holden Beach Police, Brunswick County EMS and emergency responders from Tri-Beach Fire Department responded to the scene. Coastline rescue transported Corey to Brunswick Novant Health Medical Center where her injury was treated by Dr. Mark Hanna and surgeon Dr. Richard Leighton.

**SPECIES:** According to Corey, the shark was about five to six feet in length. Tooth fragments were recovered from the wound, but Corey is unsure of their location.

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Clay Creswell, GSAF





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