

ACTIVITY: Walking in the surf

CASE: [GSAF 2013.07.19](#)

DATE: Friday July 19, 2013

LOCATION: The accident took place in the Gulf of Mexico at Gulf Shores, Baldwin County, Alabama, USA. 30.24964, -87.6745059

NAME: Laura Havrylkoff

DESCRIPTION: She is a 50-year-old female from Mandeville, Louisiana. She is 5'3", weighs 116 lbs, and was wearing a red, purple and black two-piece bathing suit and stud earrings.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sky was overcast and it had just stopped raining. The air temperature was 81°F, dew point 73°F, humidity 82%, sea level pressure 30.04 inches (falling) and wind direction was SE at 6 to 10 mph.

MOON PHASE: Waxing Gibbous, 87% of the Moon was illuminated Full Moon, July 22, 2013.

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was brownish, choppy and murky with limited visibility (12 inches). A south-to-east current was present.

ENVIRONMENT: The beach is backed by condos. The incident took place 200 yards from the Gulf State Park Pier. Anglers were shore fishing, catching hard head catfish, *Ariopsis felis*, and ladyfish, *Elops saurus*. There was "a lot of bait fish in the water and waves," said Laura.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 50 feet

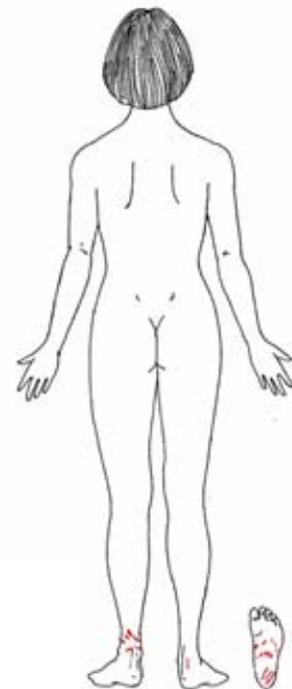
DEPTH OF WATER: 30 inches (mid-thigh-deep)

TIME: 14h30

NARRATIVE: Approximately 40 people were on the beach and 15 in the water, six of whom were within three to 20 metres of Laura. She was walking out to swim with her daughter. She had only been in the water for a minute and was facing seaward when she was initially bitten by the shark. "I realized what it was immediately, and turned to go back to shore when I felt the second bite," she said. "I dropped on my back and began kicking my feet in the direction where I thought the shark was (away from shore). I called for help, and my daughter helped me stand and other swimmers carried me back to the beach."

INJURY: The patient sustained a bite to the left posterior ankle and multiple punctures and abrasions to the sole and heel of the left foot and ankle. Her Achilles tendon was partially torn.

TREATMENT: Paramedics were called to Royal Palms condos and it was determined the wounds were not serious enough to go to the hospital emergency room. They recommended an urgent care facility. She was treated at South Baldwin Urgent Care Center in Gulf Shore by Dr. Maureen Bodenbauer where her injuries were x-rayed. Eight of the lacerations required 17 sutures. She received



outpatient care from Dr. Roderick Chandler, her orthopedic surgeon in Mandeville, Louisiana, and went through a series of casts for treatment of the partial tear in her Achilles tendon.

SPECIES: Not identified.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Al Brenneka, Shark Attack Survivors

