



ACTIVITY: Fishing

CASE: [GSAF 2013.08.05](#)

DATE: Monday August 5, 2013

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Gulf of Mexico in front of Casa Ybel Resort on Sanibel Island, Lee County, Florida, USA.
82.071176, 26.423869



Christian Mercurio

NAME: Christian Mercurio

DESCRIPTION: He is a 17-year-old male from Randolph, New Jersey. He is 5'8", weighs 170 lbs, and was wearing a bathing suit. He wore no jewelry and had no injuries prior to the accident.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 14h53, Fort Myers recorded scattered clouds and 10-mile visibility. The air temperature was 90.0°F, dew point 75°F, humidity 61%, sea level pressure 29.98 inches and wind direction was West at 13.8 mph. At Sanibel Island, the sky was clear and the air temperature was 85°F.



MOON PHASE: Waning Crescent, 1% of the Moon was illuminated. New Moon, August 6, 2013.

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was dark brown and murky due to heavy rains and water being released from Lake Okeechobee. The sea surface temperature was 80°F (estimated), and the water was calm.

ENVIRONMENT: He was fishing on a sandbar at the time of the accident, and allegedly had bait in his pockets that the shark may have been attempting to grab.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 20 yards

DEPTH OF WATER: Waist-deep

TIME: 15h00

NARRATIVE: Mercurio had been fishing for two or three hours. There were about 20 people on the beach and 10 in the water, two or three of them were within 3 to 20 metres of him. "I felt the pressure of the shark biting my right leg. It let go as I shook my leg, then it bit my left foot before disappearing. I dropped my fishing pole and frantically headed for shore yelling 'shark'. My dad ran into the water and helped me in."

"It felt like I was being bitten by something so I just kicked whatever it was and it bit my left foot," said Mercurio. "It's like a large amount of pressure, it feels like cinder blocks are falling on your legs. I just ripped my leg out of the sharks mouth and started running to shore." He also said that he believes the shark became more aggressive as he tried to escape.

INJURY: Laceration to the upper right calf, right ankle and the dorsum of the left foot. "I have a large puncture wound that left a hole this big and underneath that I have three little tiny teeth marks," said Mercurio.

FIRST AID: His mother, Lisa Mercurio, a registered nurse, flew into action when she realized what was happening to her son. "We sat him down and elevated his legs," she said. "Luckily, people started throwing us beach towels."

TREATMENT: He was taken to HealthPark Medical Center with (reported) very minor injuries.

SPECIES: It was thought the incident involved a bull shark, six to eight feet in length.