



ACTIVITY: Fishing

CASE: [GSAF 2014.08.28](#)

DATE: Thursday August 28, 2014

LOCATION: The incident took place at the Assateague Island National Seashore.

NAME: Mathew Vickers

DESCRIPTION: He is a 33-year-old male, a recent graduate of Salisbury University, currently employed as a bar-back at Seacrets.

BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT: Assateague Island is a 37-mile (60 km) long barrier island located off the eastern coast of the northern two-thirds of the island is in Maryland while the southern third is in Virginia. The Maryland section contains the majority of Assateague Island National Seashore and Assateague State Park. The Virginia section contains a small part of the national seashore and the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.

TIME: Morning

NARRATIVE: Mathew Vickers was fishing with a companion, and was reeling in the shark. As he reached down to grab the shark, "he whipped around and grabbed me on the foot," Vickers said. "It happened within a matter of seconds. It wasn't painful because it was so quick."

INJURY: An artery and tendon in his foot were cut.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Vickers and his friend used a surfboard strap to fashion a tourniquet. Paramedics were in the area and he was taken by ambulance to Peninsula Regional Medical Center, where he underwent surgery the same night, to be followed by a skin graft a few days later. His estimated recovery period is six to eight weeks.

SPECIES: According to Alan Henningsen, fishes research specialist at the National Aquarium, sandbar sharks are extremely common in the waters off Assateague. Juveniles, he said, are typically three to four feet, which Vickers says is the size of the shark that bit him.

NOTE: This was a provoked incident; the shark had been hooked by the fisherman.