



ACTIVITY: Wading

CASE: [GSAF 2015.06.14.b](#)

DATE: Sunday June 14, 2015

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Oak Island, North Carolina, approximately equidistant between two fishing piers: 2.15 miles north of the Oak Crest Pier and 2.15 miles south of the Oak Island Pier.

33°54'29.40"N, 78°06'35.11"W

NAME: Trevor Treschel

DESCRIPTION: A 16-year-old male from Colorado Springs, Colorado.



Hunter Treschel

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 17h55, KSUT (The nearest airport to Oak Island) recorded scattered clouds and 10 mile visibility. The air temperature was 86.9°F, heat index 91.7°F, dew point 70.2°F, humidity 57%, sea level pressure, and wind direction was West at 8.1 mph.

MOON PHASE: Waning Crescent, 4% of the Moon was illuminated. New Moon, June 15, 2015.

SEA CONDITIONS: Mean high tide occurred at 18h35. On June 15, the sea in the area of the attack site was murky and greenish, and I witnessed pelican diving just off the beach and some very tiny minnows at the waters edge.

ENVIRONMENT: The incident took place approximately 2.5 miles from Ocean Crest Fishing Pier, and a blogger on a local news site said her husband was told that there were

some kayaks near the pier on Friday June 12, and they were chumming. Another blogger reports that he has seen sharkers fishing at Yaupon Beach and one SUV had a shark fishing website on it. According to Ocean Crest Pier website, trout were caught from the pier during the morning and late afternoon of June 14, 2015. All that week: Black Drum (*Pogonias cromis*), sheepshead (*Archosargus probatocephalus*), bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*) and Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus maculatus*) were also being caught. Sharks and skates were plentiful, with dogfish being caught in the 12"-14" size range. According to witnesses on the beach, there were small baitfish in the water at the time of the attack and pelicans were diving into the water. On Saturday June 13, GSAF Case Investigator Clay Creswell was at Cherry Grove Pier about 42 miles south of Oak Island and observed that the water was very murky, brown in color, and schools of baitfish in the breakers up to the shoreline all along the beach.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 20 yards

DEPTH OF WATER: Waist deep

TIME: 17h51

NARRATIVE: Hunter Treschel walked into the water to wash off sand. He had been in the water for only a minute when he "felt a hit" on his left calf. "I thought it felt like a big fish, and I started moving away. It all happened very, very quickly. And then I saw the shark on my left arm," he said. "It was half way up my bicep kind of. It just attached and then it wasn't attached anymore."

"My cousin pulled me out of the water and got me on the beach. I'm thinking, 'There's no way this just happened, because there's no pain,'" he said. "I didn't feel anything."

INJURY: According to New Hanover Regional Medical Center and police dispatch, the patient's left arm severed by the shark with 2/3rd's of the bicep removed by the shark.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: By-standers on the beach and First Responders helped save the life of the patient; the injury was life-threatening and without their assistance the attack might have been fatal.

First responders moved the injured teen out of the path of a passing storm. "A guy had a belt with him, and he was able to use that as a tourniquet on my arm, to stop the bleeding," recalls Treschel. "I'd like to thank him very much. And then there were other people, I don't know their names, but I'd really like to thank all of them a lot. They were all helping me kind of stay calm until the ambulance got there."

The patient was airlifted to New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington and arrived there in serious condition "It was a clean transaction," said Dr. Borden Hooks III. "On arrival at the hospital, the patient was taken to the operating room where doctors stopped the bleeding and performed a 'definitive repair.' In surgery when we have traumatic injuries, a definitive repair is one where we can get the vital tissue structures back together," said Dr. Hooks. He said the patient wouldn't have to undergo any other procedures but will remain hospitalized for at least a few more days. "He's awake and talking to us. He does have a lot of recovering to do but young folks tend to recover well," he said. Although the patient is in good shape, Hooks said he can't say for sure how well he'll recover. "I can't tell you exactly how well he's going to recover, but I can tell you that they've made a lot of

advances in prosthetic limbs and devices,” he said.

Four days after the attack, Treschel spoke to the media: “I've lost my arm obviously, so I have two options: I can try to live my life the way I was and make an effort to do that even though I don't have an arm, or I can just let this be completely debilitating and bring my life down and ruin it. Out of those two, there's really only one that I would actually choose and that's to try to fight and live a normal life with the cards I've been dealt. Thank you for everybody's support. I've gotten a massive amount of messages from people from all over, wishing me well, I'd like to thank them for that. To my friends back home, I can't wait to see them again. A big thank you to everyone who helped me out at the beach. Thanks to the ambulance crews and all the hospital staff who helped me throughout this whole ordeal.”

Interviewed on *Good Morning America*, he had a message for Yow who lost an arm to a shark the same day at Oak Island: “Just stay strong. It's not a life-changing thing to lose an arm. There's plenty of people who have done it, and we're both young, and as time goes on, prosthetics technology is going to be just unreal compared to what we imagine today, and it's always improving. So who knows, 30 years, it might be like having a second arm.”

SPECIES: As yet undetermined, however the habitat, behavior of the shark and nature of the injury suggests that a bull shark may have been involved. Brunswick County Sheriff John Ingram said aerial and shore patrols will continue monitoring the coastline. Ingram said two sharks, or possibly the same one, were spotted after the attacks. The size of one shark sighted was estimated at about seven feet long. The second sighting was a shark of the same general size.

NOTES: On Monday, June 15, I met with Oak Island Town Manager Tim Holloman, Oak Island Mayor Betty W. Wallace, and Caswell Beach Commissioner/Mayor Pro Tem. They all confirmed that there is beach shark fishing on the Island, and chumming activity does occur, and I witnessed beach shark fishermen anchoring chum bags off the beach to attract sharks. It is not known if there was shark fishing/chumming activity the day before the day of or night before the attacks. If there was chumming in the area Friday or Saturday, this could be a contributing factor for a large predator being in the area at the time of the attack. On June 27, 2015 talked to Oak Island Pier workers. Oak Island Pier is approximately 4.3 miles north of Ocean Crest Pier. The workers told me that on the day of the two attacks two jet skiers in the area of Oak Island Pier reported that sharks “were everywhere”. They said the bluefish were running and pogies were prevalent in the water. Oak Island officials, and Professor Frank Schwartz all confirm that schools bluefish were present the day of the attacks. I recommended that chumming laws be reviewed and a county ordinance set in place to make chumming from the beach illegal.

SOURCES: Fox News, June 15, 2015

<http://www.fox10phoenix.com/story/29327611/2015/06/16/2-youths-hurt-in-shark-attacks-on-north-carolina-coast>

WPIX 11 New York, June 14, 2015

<http://pix11.com/2015/06/15/shark-attacks-how-likely-are-they/>

Boston Globe June 15, 2015

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/news/nation/2015/06/15/vacationers-lose-limbs-separate-shark-attacks/ChZnDgiGwlbbm4POZaC4yJ/story.html>

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CBC, June 15, 2015

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/north-carolina-shark-attack-victims-were-in-waist-deep-water-1.3113508>

Winston-Salem Journal, June 17, 2015

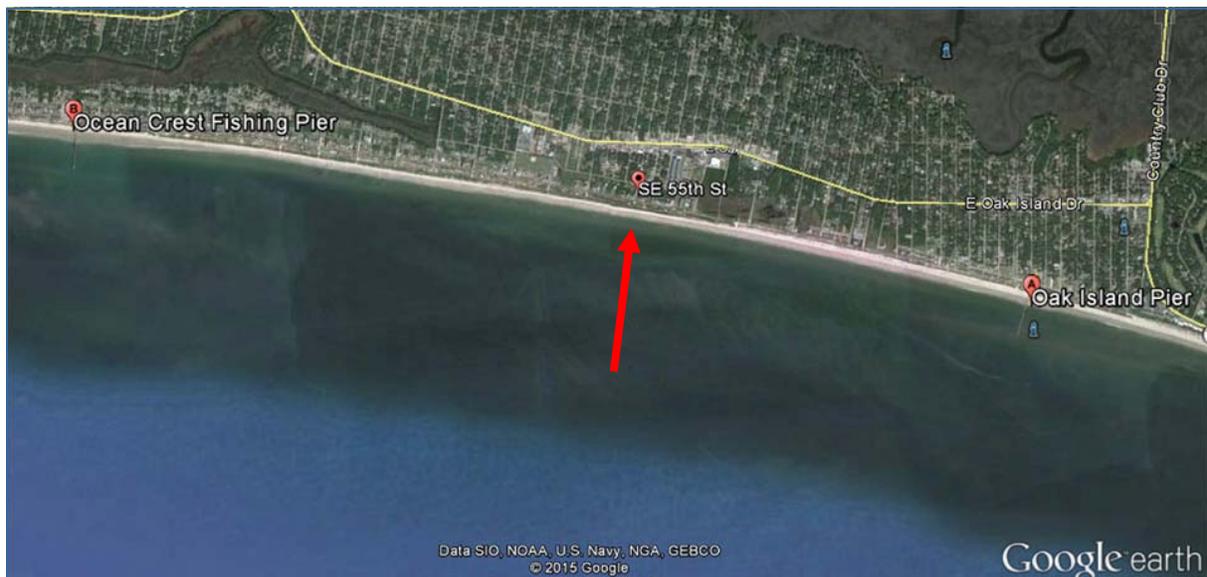
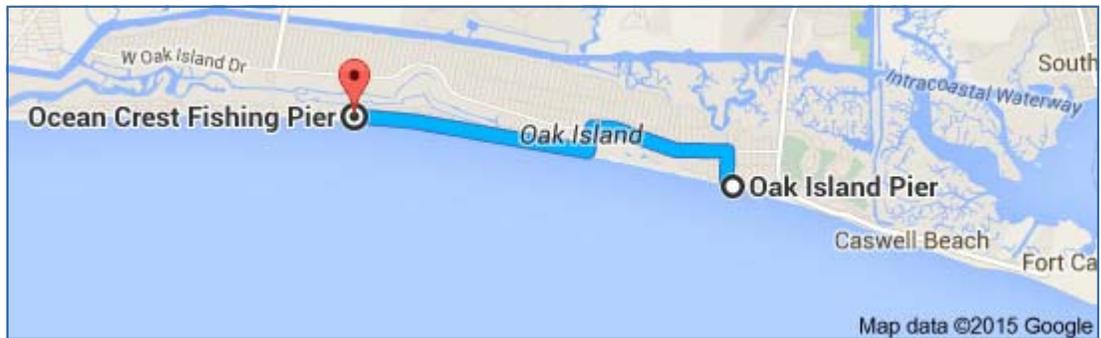
http://www.journalnow.com/news/state_region/shark-attack-survivor-it-was-biting-up-my-left-arm/article_38b920bc-14a4-11e5-94ba-63423613c519.html

ABC News, June 25, 2015

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/north-carolina-shark-attack-victim-hunter-treschl-didnt/story?id=32018640>

+1,700 additional media reports on the internet

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Clay Creswell, Global Shark Accident File.



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