



**ACTIVITY:** Swimming / Boogie Boarding

**CASE:** [GSAF 2015.06.24.b](#)

**DATE:** Wednesday June 24, 2015

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean off 700 South Shore Dive in Surf City, Topsail Island, Pender County, North Carolina, USA.

*34°25'14.78"N, 77°33'03.17"W*

**NAME:** Brady Noyes

**DESCRIPTION:** An eight-year-old male.

**BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** At 15h46, Surf City recorded air temperature of 86.5°F, Heat index 105°F to 109°F with a Heat Advisory in effect until 17h00, wind direction SW at 13.6 mph.

**MOON PHASE:** First Quarter, June 24, 2015. Full Moon, July 1, 2015.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The sea surface temperature was 80°F, higher than usual for this time of year. At 14h00, Surf City Pier recorded wave height of 3.5 feet and mean high tide at the pier occurred at 14h23.

**ENVIRONMENT:** The incident took place five blocks from the Surf City fishing pier. Town policy prohibits people from swimming or surfing within 300 feet of a fishing pier.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 25 yards



*Brady Noyes*

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Knee-deep

**TIME:** 12h25

**NARRATIVE:** It is not known if the boy was splashing in the water. Town Manager Larry Bergman said the town does not plan to warn visitors about the shark bite or tell swimmers to get out of the water, but it has increased police beach patrols.



**INJURY:** Minor. The boy sustained superficial wounds to his anterior lower right leg and ankle and a puncture wound to the heel. The bite measured about seven inches in diameter.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** The boy's injuries were treated at the scene by Surf City Police and Pender East EMS. Afterwards, his parents took him to NHRMC Emergency Department North in Scotts Hill for further assessment. Stitches were not needed.

**SPECIES:** While many species of sharks move along the area (white sharks, tiger sharks, bull sharks, mako sharks, blacktip, spinner, whitetip and lemon sharks, the bite pattern suggests that a sandtiger shark, *Carcharias taurus*, might have been involved in this incident.

**COMMENT:** The most likely explanation is that the boy was in the wrong place at the wrong time. Shark bites are exceedingly rare events, involve various species of sharks and occur in diverse habitats; for these reasons statistical analysis of causative factors reveals little of predictive value. However, we do know that the number of incidents increase when the sea is warm (80°F / 27°C) because more people are in the water, and they are spending more time in the sea. Warm water temperatures and northward flowing currents also bring baitfish along the coast, and the sharks and other marine predators follow to feed on the baitfish. Although there is considerable variation from year to year, in 2015 these conditions appeared in April.

**SOURCES:** WECT, June 24, 2015

<http://www.wect.com/story/29399285/8-year-old-appears-to-be-bitten-by-shark-suffers-minor-injuries>

Wilmington Star News, June 24, 2015,

<http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20150624/articles/150629887>

WRAL, June 25, 2015

<http://www.wral.com/boy-8-bitten-by-shark-in-surf-city/14735957/>

My Fox 8, June 25, 2015

<http://myfox8.com/2015/06/25/details-fourth-child-attacked-by-shark-of-nc-coast/>

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Clay Creswell, Global Shark Accident File