



ACTIVITY: Swimming with goggles

CASE: [2015.08.18.a](#)

DATE: Tuesday August 18, 2015

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Mediterranean Sea near Elche Park at Poniente Beach, Benidorm, Alicante Province, Valencia Region, Spain.

NAME: Unknown

DESCRIPTION: He is a 10-year-old male wearing red bathing trunks.

BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT: Benidorm is a seaside resort on the eastern coast of Spain, part of the Valencia region's famed Costa Blanca.

TIME: 11h00

NARRATIVE: The boy was trying to touch the fish when it bit him. Bathers were immediately ordered out of the water and the beach was closed for nearly an hour while police and a local boat crew tried without success to find the fish. The beach was reopened less than an hour after the



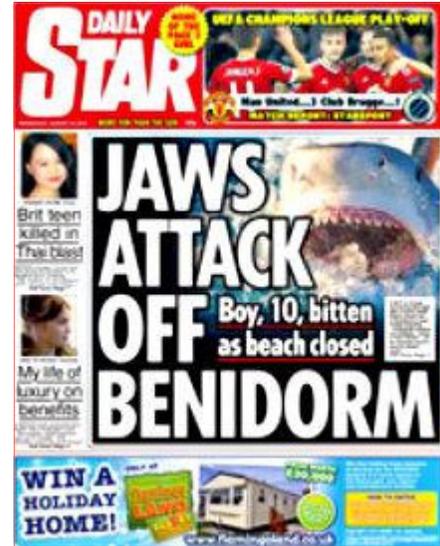
incident.

INJURY: The boy sustained two arcs of shallow lacerations just above the waist.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: The child was treated at a first aid centre on the beach, and did not need hospitalization.

SPECIES: The fish was described as “greyish-green” and about a half-metre in length. Local officials speculated the injury may have been caused by a barracuda.

COMMENT: This minor incident precipitated attacks of yellow journalism in the British press: The front page of the *Daily Star* featured a huge photo of a shark calling the incident a “Jaws Attack”, *The Express* reported that the 10-year-old was “savaged”, and according to *The Sun* the boy was “mauled” by a “seven-foot beast”.



SOURCES: The Local, August 18, 2015

<http://www.thelocal.es/20150818/benidorm-beach-closed-after-fish-bites-boy>

Mirror, August 18, 2015

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/benidorm-shark-alert-closes-beach-6271685>

Daily Star, August 19, 2015

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/459874/Shark-Benidorm-beach-tourists>

The Local, August 21, 2015

<http://www.thelocal.es/20150821/benidorms-shark-attack-becomes-butt-of-a-million-internet-jokes>

