



ACTIVITY: Boogie Boarding

CASE: [GSAF 2015.10.09.b](#)

DATE: Friday October 9, 2015

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Shipyard Beach Club, Hilton Head Island, Beaufort County, South Carolina, USA.

NAME: Meti Kershner

DESCRIPTION: A nine-year-old female.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 16h50, KHXD (the airport nearest Hilton Head), recorded scattered clouds and 10-mile visibility. The air temperature was 77°F, dew point 68°F, humidity 74%, sea level pressure 30.05 inches and no wind.

MOON PHASE: Waning Crescent, 10% of the Moon was illuminated. New Moon, October 12, 2015.

ENVIRONMENT: Mike Wagner, operations manager for Hilton Head Island Shore Beach Service, said lifeguards clear swimmers out of the water for sharks on a “pretty routine basis.” “It seems like a lot of times when we see them, they are in shallow water,” Wagner said. He said that the day before this incident he followed a four-foot shark in ankle-deep watery from Folly Field Beach Park to Islander’s Beach Park. “I think the sharks are there,” Wagner said. “People just don’t generally see them. I think they are generally not interested in us.”

TIME: 16h20

NARRATIVE: Meti Kershner was boogie boarding with her family when her sister felt something pass her leg in the knee-deep water. Kershner then felt a tug on her right hand. She pulled it from the water to find it bleeding from a wound that extended up most of her forearm.

INJURY: Severe laceration to right forearm.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: The girl was rushed from the water by her family onto the beach



Meti Kershner recuperating at the hospital with a new friend.

Cathy Gaffney, submitted photo

near the Shipyard Plantation beach club where a medical student on vacation used a lanyard as a tourniquet to control blood loss until emergency personnel arrived. The patient was treated on the scene by the Hilton Head Island Shore Beach Service and Hilton Head Fire & Rescue and airlifted to Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah. Hours later she was released from the Savannah hospital and taken to a hospital in Atlanta. Two surgical procedures were needed to repair the tendons and nerves in the patient's arm.

SPECIES: Not identified. Neither the girl or anyone in the water saw a shark, but

SOURCE: Caitlin Turner, The Island Packet, October 12, 14 & 15, 2015

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/crime/article38829762.html>,

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/crime/article39040671.html>

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article39323214.html>

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Clay Creswell, Global Shark Accident File.