

North Carolina Shark Attacks Project

Note: The following article describes a shark attack upon two individuals that occurred on September 3rd, 2001 off Avon in Dare County. This article appeared in *The Rockford Register*, September 5th 2001.

Shark fatality first in N.C. since 1957

A second victim remains in critical condition.

The Associated Press

AVON, N.C. — Summer's final holiday weekend was in its waning hours when Sergei Zaloukaev and Natalia Slobodskaya went for an evening swim off one of North Carolina's best-known beaches. It ended gruesomely when a shark attacked them both.

Zaloukaev, 28, was bitten multiple times, losing his right foot, and died of blood loss shortly after Monday's attack. Rescue crews said he was in cardiac arrest by the time they arrived.

Slobodskaya, 23, was in critical condition at a Norfolk, Va., hospital Tuesday, breathing with the aid of a ventilator. She lost her left foot.

Trauma surgeon Dr. Jeffrey Riblet said he was surprised Slobodskaya survived. She lost a massive amount of blood — much of it from a 12-



The Associated Press

People walk on the beach Tuesday in Avon, N.C., near the area where a shark attacked a couple Monday evening.

inch diameter bite on her left hip — a wound that was nearly to the bone.

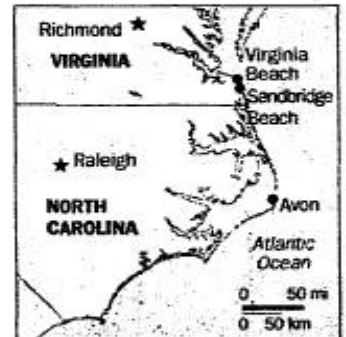
No one saw the attack in the surf 20 to 40 feet off the Cape Hatteras National Seashore in waist-deep water. Zaloukaev, who lived with Slobodskaya in Oakton, Va., is the first person killed by a shark in North Carolina since 1957.

It was the nation's second fatal shark attack not only of the summer, but of the weekend. A 10-year-old boy was killed Saturday off Virginia Beach, Va., 135 miles north.

George Burgess of the International Shark Attack File in Gainesville, Fla., said it was the first time since 1994 that there had been two fatal shark

Shark attacks

Beachgoers on the East Coast are on alert following two recent fatal shark attacks near Sandbridge Beach, Va., and Avon, N.C.



The Associated Press

attacks in the United States in the same year.

Burgess said Monday's attack was very unusual because North Carolina reports few shark attacks. There were five last summer, none fatal.

He cautioned that the fatalities did not indicate a trend.