



North Carolina Shark Attacks Project

Note: The following article describes a shark attack that occurred on August 25th, 1976, near the Emerald Isle Pier at Emerald Isle in Carteret County. The article appeared in the Hendersonville *Times-News*, August 30th, 1976.

Shark Didn't Attack, N.C. Victim Says

MOREHEAD CITY, N.C. (AP)— "I didn't actually know what had happened until I realized my foot was inside a shark's mouth," recalled surfer Randy Hall from a hospital bed here Saturday night.

Hall, 23, a High Point native now living in Bogue Banks, was released from Carteret General Hospital Sunday after he found himself included in a hammerhead shark's breakfast plans Wednesday morning.

But, Hall said he didn't take it personally.

"It really wasn't an attack, it was just a bite," Hall said, as if apologizing for the predator's poor manners. "I think my foot was mistaken for a fish or something. There was a bite on it and then I was released. I think it was an accident."

Authorities said Hall was in waist deep water near the Emerald Isle Pier when the shark struck.

"There were four other surfers out in the water," Hall said. "I started yelling for help. One of them came in and saw what it was and yelled, 'Shark!'"

"I made it out of the water to the beach," he continued. "About 15 seconds after I got up on the beach, I started to lose consciousness. The poison is kind of like a slime. It took a while for it to hit me."

It sounded like a sequel to "Jaws," but Hall said he had never seen the movie and didn't intend to let the incident drive him forever from the ocean.

"It was always in the back of my mind when I went out before," he said. "But, if you have a car wreck, you usually end up back in the car."

Hall said he will bear no mental scars as a result of his brush with possible tragedy. But the animal left physical scars on his right leg and foot.

Doctors treated two deep lacerations, each about three inches long, and "a row of teeth prints" on the right foot, Hall said.

"They just scrubbed it out and tried to get all the poison and sand out," he said. Antitoxins were administered intravenously to combat possible infection.