

Shark attacks off US east coast injure two children

Washington (dpa) - A North Carolina beach remained open Monday under heavy patrol, a day after two children, age 12 and 16, each lost their left arms in separate shark attacks.

The village where the attack happened on Sunday, Oak Island, is being monitored for more shark activity, said town manager Tim Holloman in a broadcast press conference Monday. He said that even though the beaches are open, visitors are encouraged to stay out of the water. Officials said shark activity in the region was unusual.

According to reports, the first attack was on a 12-year-old female whose left arm was taken from her elbow on down. She also suffered leg damage.

The second attack occurred just over an hour later on a 16-year-old male about 3 kilometres south who lost his left arm from his shoulder.

Both victims were reported in stable condition.

"We spotted one shark that was estimated over 7 feet (2.1 metres) long between the locations of the two bites earlier, and then we spotted another one ... down a little further south, about the same size," Brunswick County Sheriff John Ingram said at the a news conference.

Authorities could not determine if it was the same shark in the from the attacks.

The two attacks on Sunday come just a few days after a 13-year-old girl was bitten by a shark on a different beach in North Carolina, about 48 kilometres away.

Published online at http://www.scscircle.com/news/id-252167_shark-attacks-off-us-east-coast-injure-two-children.html