

Vacationers find body in sound

■ Not ruling out foul play, Harrison coroner says

The Associated Press

The body of a man with a single gunshot wound to the head has been discovered in the shallows of the Mississippi Sound in Gulfport.

The gruesome find was made Tuesday by vacationers, police Chief Wayne Payne said.

The man has not been indentified. He was found at 2:30 a.m. and appeared to have been dead no more than two hours, Payne said.

"We are not ruling out any foul play," Harrison County Coroner Gary Hargrove said. "But some of

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our findings point to a self-inflicted wound."

The victim was about 30 years old, about 5-feet 11-inches tall and weighed 165 pounds.

He appears to be Asian-Pacific, with a dark tan and a slight goatee and moustache, authorities said.

An employee of the nearby Alamo Plaza hotel said the body fit the description of man from California who was a guest at the hotel earlier in the week.

This is the second death at the beach in several months. In June, 57-year-old Claude E. Cochran of Sylacauga, Ala., was beaten with a pipe and thrown off Gulfport's Courthouse Road pier.

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