

ACTIVITY: Surfing / Standing

CASE: [GSAF 2002.04.20](#)

DATE: Saturday April 20, 2002

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean off St. Augustine Beach, St. Johns County, Florida, USA.

29.8°N, 81.3°W

NAME: Robert Stinson

DESCRIPTION: The surfer is a 34-year-old male from Orange Park, Florida.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sky was clear.

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, April 20, 2002

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was murky.

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: "Waist-deep"

TIME: Morning

NARRATIVE: The surfer was standing by his board when he encountered the shark. "I never saw it coming, but I knew exactly what it was when his rough skin brushed up against my leg. It hit my foot, took two quick tugs, thrashed a little and swam away."

As Stinson climbed back onto his board he realized

that his foot was almost severed. "There was no pain until I reached the beach," he said.

INJURY: The surfer's right foot was severely bitten; his Achilles tendon was severed and he sustained puncture wounds and lacerations to the foot.

FIRST AID: Stinson's wife, a nurse, wrapped towels around the bite. She had her husband lie down with his foot on a beach chair so it was elevated above his heart until rescue workers arrived.

TREATMENT: The surfer was transported to Flagler Hospital where the injury was surgically repaired, and he was released that evening. He will wear a cast for about four months and require physical therapy.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified. Stinson estimated the shark was about four feet long. "It mistook my foot for a fish," he said.

SOURCE: Florida Times-Union, April 23, 2002; Miami Herald, April 25, 2002



Robert Stinson