

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2003.04.20.a

DATE: Sunday April 20, 2003

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

29°N, 81°W

NAME: Stephen Flowers

DESCRIPTION: The surfer is an 18-year-old white male from Ormond Beach, Florida. a Volusia County lifeguard for two years. He was wearing tan baggies with a panel of neon green on the side.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 81% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated. Last Quarter, April 23, 2003.

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was turbid

ENVIRONMENT: The incident took place in "shark shallows", the two-mile stretch of water south of Ponce de Leon inlet. "It seems to happen all the time (in that spot)," said the surfer. "I knew the sharks were there when I went into the water but I figured it wouldn't happen to me."

DEPTH OF WATER: Six to eight feet

TIME: 14h20

NARRATIVE: Stephen Flowers was surfing at the inlet. Five or fewer other people were in the water and none were within 10 feet of the surfer. He was sitting on his board with his feet dangling in the water when the clamped down on his foot and pulled him underwater for a few seconds. He walked ashore without any assistance. His surfing buddies were unaware that he had been bitten until after he reached the beach.

INJURY: The surfer was bitten on his right ankle, resulting in deep puncture wounds and avulsion injuries to the dorsum and sole of the foot, and torn tendons.

TREATMENT: The surfer was taken to Bert Fish Medical Center in New Smyrna Beach. He underwent two surgical procedures to repair the damage to his ankle.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified.

SOURCES: Local6.com; Orlando Sentinel, April 22, 2003, page B3; S. Frederick, Daytona Beach News Journal, April 28, 2003, page 1C

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Captain Scott Petersohn, GSAF

