

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2003.07.05.a](#)

DATE: Saturday July 5, 2003

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Canova Beach, Brevard County, Florida, USA.

NAME: James Ingram

DESCRIPTION: The surfer is a 21-year-old male. Raised in Vero Beach, he left in 1999 to surf in Hawaii, Oregon and California and to work at national parks. His mother, Dianna Ingram, said he planning to attend college and was scheduled to take the Scholastic Aptitude Test at Brevard Community College Tuesday.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 32% of the moon's visible disk illuminated. First Quarter, July 7, 2003.

ENVIRONMENT: The shore of Canova Beach is lined with rocks. Public beaches near the unguarded area in which Ingram was surfing had been closed briefly over the weekend because of a suspicious-looking spill in the water. Wyatt Werneth, chief lifeguard for Brevard County Public Safety Department, said the nature of the spill and its source had not been determined by Tuesday. Water samples from what Werneth described as a "weird orange slick" still were being analyzed by public-health officials.



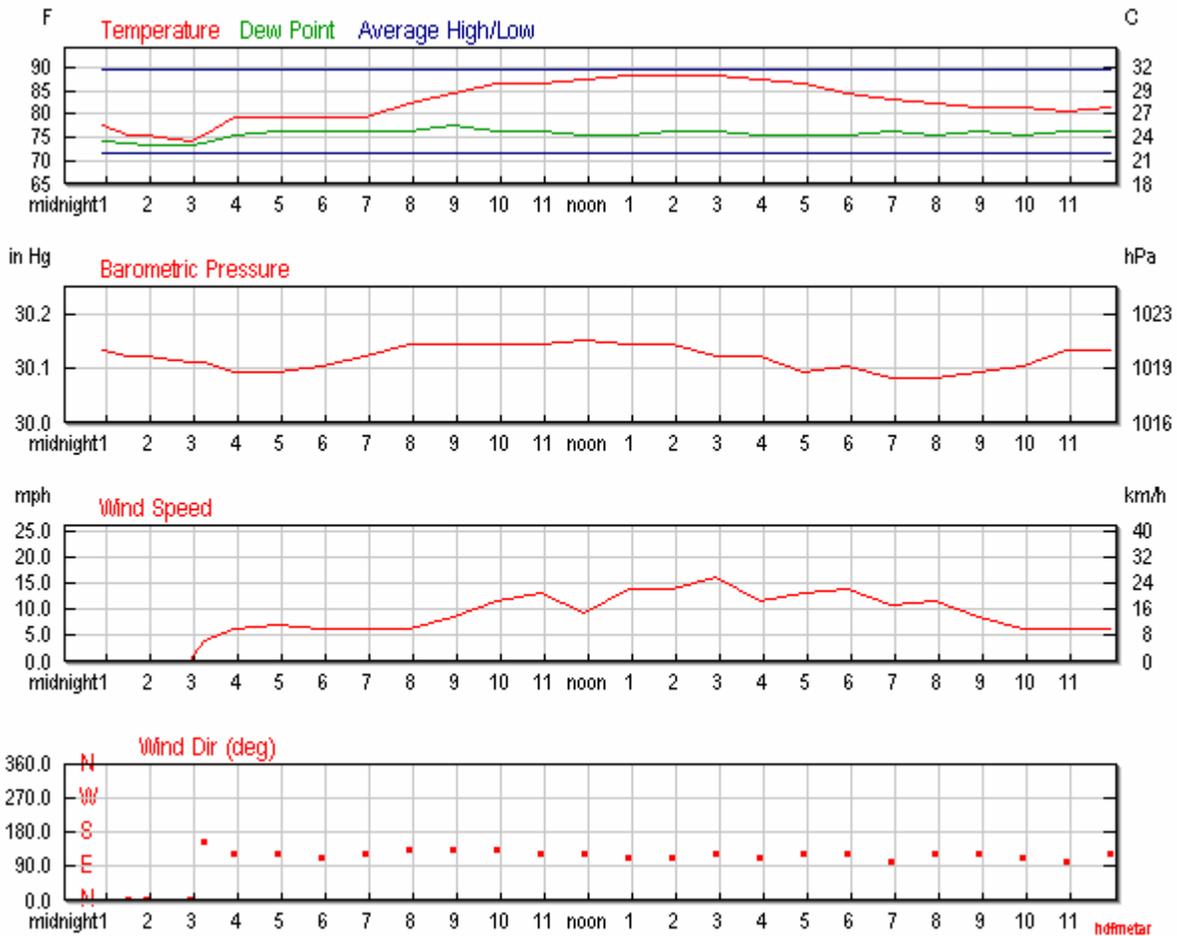
NARRATIVE: Ingram was sitting on his board waiting for a wave when a shark rose from beneath and bit his left foot. "It was jerking my leg around," Ingram said. "I knew what had happened right away. I was just trying to not go into shock and pass out." The surfer said he laid on his board and let a wave push him to shore. Then he hopped up on his good leg.

FIRST AID: When he reached the beach the surfer peeled off his rash guard (a lightweight top surfers wear to protect their skin while paddling their boards), wrapped it around his foot and applied pressure to control the bleeding. Two women walking the beach used a cell phone to summon rescue personnel.

TREATMENT: He was admitted to Holmes Regional Medical Center where surgery was performed on Tuesday to reconnect tendons and ligaments.

SPECIES: The shark was said to be 1.5 to 1.8 metres [five- to six-feet] in length.

SOURCE: James Kirley, jim.kirley@scripps.com, Vero Beach Press Journal, July 9, 2003, page A8



Weather in Melbourne, Florida on July 5, 2003