

ACTIVITY: Boogie boarding

CASE: [GSAF 2003.09.13.b](#)

DATE: Saturday, September 13, 2003

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean south of the International Speedway Boulevard beach approach (500 block South Ocean Beach) in Daytona Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

29.2°N, 81.0°W

NAME: Aaron Edelson

DESCRIPTION: He boogie-boarder is an 18-year-old male from Jacksonville, Florida. He was wearing blue surfing trunks or shorts. He is a freshman at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 16h53, Daytona Beach recorded a partly cloudy sky and visibility of 10 miles. The air temperature was 82°F [27.8°C], dew point 70°F [21.1°C], humidity 67%, sea level pressure 30.04 inches [1017.2 hPa], and wind direction was northeast at 10.4 mph [16.7 km/h]. By 17h53, the sky was clear and wind direction was east-northeast.

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 92% of the Moon's visible disk illuminated. Full Moon September 12, 2003.

SEA CONDITIONS: The waves were about five to six feet in height and the water was turbid.

ENVIRONMENT: Beach Patrol officers noted that a lot of baitfish were in the surf.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 75 yards, just beyond the breaking waves.

DEPTH OF WATER: Eight feet

TIME: 17h11

NARRATIVE: Aaron Edelson had been in the water with three friends, but was alone in the sea when he felt a thump, pull and then a sting. "I saw the blood and knew I got hit pretty hard," said Edelson. "I never saw the shark, but I felt him thrashing around." He started shouting, "shark attack." Edelson said that he felt no pain until friends and rescuers brought him to shore.

INJURY: Edelson sustained a 10- to 12-inch avulsion on his left calf and his Achilles tendon was damaged.

FIRST AID: Beach Patrol paramedics controlled the bleeding and the patient was transported by EVAC ambulance to the hospital.



TREATMENT: He underwent surgery at Halifax Medical Center on Saturday evening.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified. The radius of the bite suggests the shark was about six feet in length.

SOURCES: Ray Weiss, Daytona Beach Journal, September 15, 2003, page 3C; Orlando Sentinel, September 15, 2003, page B.2

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Captain Scott Petersohn



Aaron Edelson

