

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2003.10.31.c

DATE: Friday October 31, 2003

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Ponte Vedra Beach. St John's County, Florida, USA.

30.2°N, 81.4°W

NAME: Adam Gray

DESCRIPTION: The surfer is an 18-year-old male, a senior at Nease High School.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 14h53, Jacksonville recorded overcast skies and seven-mile visibility. The air temperature was 77°F [25°C], dew point 69.1°F [20.6°C], humidity 76%, sea level pressure 30.19 in [1022.4 hPa], and wind direction was north-northeast at 15 mph [24.1 km/h].

MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 43% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated. First Quarter, November 1, 2003.

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea was choppy and murky.

TIME: 15h00

NARRATIVE: Adam Gray was catching waves off the Lodge Inn. He had just finished riding a wave and his left foot was hanging over his surfboard. "I was just paddling in when the shark grabbed my leash and went straight down. ... I was laying on it and my body, from my shoulders down, was going under water. My board was almost completely under water. I just hung on. It shook its head and I knew it was a shark. It bit my foot, let go and then went down," Gray said. "I couldn't really fight back because I was in the water at the time and he was going down. I did get my foot

out of his mouth. ... I'm guessing the shark just closed its mouth and it snapped the leash ... and this was after the bite," Gray said. "I just wanted to get back to shore. ... It happened so quick that it really wasn't painful," he said. "I just turned my board around and went straight and paddled pretty hard. It just felt so fake; it didn't really feel like it happened," he said. "It was really weird. It must have been a case of mistaken identity because it just kept coming back. It must have thought I was a fish; my foot was just dangling off like it does on a shortboard."

INJURY: The injury was considered minor; the surfer sustained a row puncture wounds



Adam Gray

about six inches in length from the heel to the arch of his left foot.

TREATMENT: He was treated at Baptist Medical Center-Beaches where five sutures were required to mend the puncture wounds.

SPECIES INVOLVED: According to the surfer, the shark was about five feet in length.

SOURCE: Drew Dixon, Florida Times-Union, Saturday, November 8, 2003