

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2005.07.22

DATE: Friday July 22, 2005

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean about a quarter mile south of Ponce de Leon Inlet, Volusia County, USA.

NAME: Matthew Pearce

DESCRIPTION: He is a 25-year-old male from Heathrow.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 10h50, New Smyrna Beach recorded scattered clouds and seven-mile visibility, air temperature 86°F [30°C], dew point 75.2°F [24°C], humidity 70%, sea level pressure 30.09 in [1018.8 hPa], and wind direction was west-southwest at 9.2 mph [14.8 km/h]. By 11h47, the air had warmed to 87.8°F [31°C], dew point was 77°F [25°C], and the wind direction shifted to northeast at 6.9 mph [11.1 km/h], but sky, visibility and sea level pressure remained unchanged.

MOON PHASE: Full Moon

TIME: 11h15

NARRATIVE: Matthew Pearce said he stepped off his surfboard and was forcefully bumped, almost knocking him over. Almost simultaneously, he felt a bite on his left ankle, and then he stepped on the creature.

INJURY: The surfer sustained a single straight 2.5-inch laceration on his upper ankle.

FIRST AID: Beach Patrol Captain Tony Sopotnick said Beach Patrol officials treated Pearce's injury and then he left in his own car and drove to Bert Fish Medical Center in New Smyrna Beach.

TREATMENT: At the hospital, Arlen Stauffer, M.D., Director of the hospital's emergency department, sutured the wound. However, Dr. Stauffer believes Pearce's injury lacks characteristics of a shark bite. Pearce was released after treatment.

SPECIES INVOLVED: The surfer did not see a shark.

SOURCE: Daytona Beach News-Journal, July 23, 2005 edition, <http://www.news-journalonline.com/NewsJournalOnline/News/Local/03AreaEAST04072305.htm>

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Debbie Salamone, Shark Research Institute

