

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2005.07.23](#)

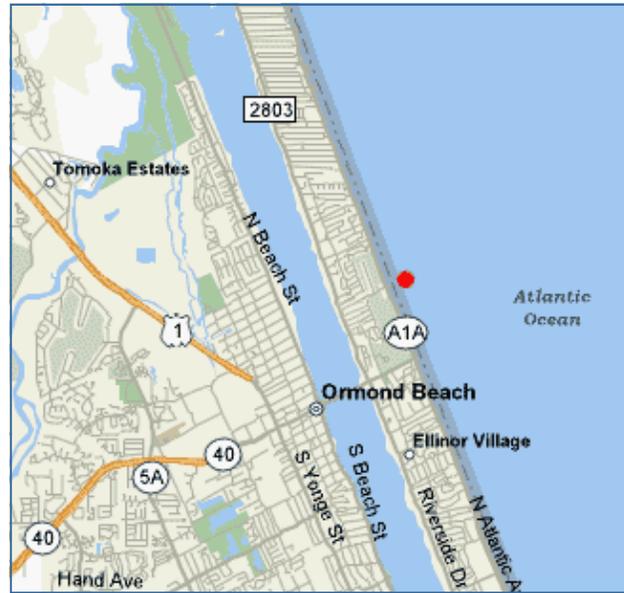
DATE: Saturday July 23, 2005

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean south of the Seminole Avenue beach approach at Ormond Beach, five miles north of Daytona Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.
29.3°N, 81.1°W

NAME: Bob Thompson

DESCRIPTION: The surfer is a 61-year-old male, six-foot tall and weighs 185 pounds. He was wearing Quick Silver brand red baggies that had a black tribal design on one side, and wore a blue surfboard leash on his right ankle.

SURFBOARD: He was using a QRV 9'6" white trifin board with black fins.



Robert Thompson

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The air temperature was 90°F and there was no wind. At 11h50, Ormond Beach recorded scattered clouds and visibility of 10 miles, air temperature 89.6°F [32°C], dew point 73.4°F [23°C], humidity 59%, sea level pressure 30.05 in [1017.5 hPa], and wind direction was northwest at 3.5 mph [5.6 km/h].

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 94% of the moon's visible disk illuminated. Full Moon, July 22, 2005.

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea was murky and brown, and underwater visibility was nil. The water temperature was about 80°F and there were small swells. The incident took place shortly before mean high tide.

ENVIRONMENT: A half-hour before the incident, Thompson may have seen some fish in the water about 100 yards from the incident site. Although a witness on the shore later said a fin had been seen, nobody on the beach that morning reported seeing a shark and the beach remained open after the incident. The presence of sharks in the area is due to a mixture of cooler, murkier water and available bait fish, according to Beach Patrol spokesman Scott Petersohn. He encouraged swimmers to watch for warning signs that a shark may be in the area. "If you see bait fish in the area or see a pelican in the sky carrying a fish, it may be a sign there are marine predators in the area," he said.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 30 yards

DEPTH OF WATER: Knee- to waist-deep

TIME: 11h30

NARRATIVE: About six other people were in the water: four surfers and two teen-age girls on boogie boards. Robert Thompson had been surfing about an hour and had just finished riding a wave inshore. He jumped off his board and spun it around to face the sea again. As soon as his feet hit the sand, the shark clamped onto his foot. Feeling the pressure of the

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bite, Thompson yanked his foot away, and the shark swam off. Thompson got on his board and paddled to shore, warning others in the water of the shark's presence. He was particularly concerned about young girls who were in the water only 15 yards away.

Thompson said he has never had an encounter with a shark during his 40 years in the water, and he will return to the water when his injuries heal.

INJURY: Thompson sustained lacerations on the bottom of his toes and the end of his right foot, but the bite was "very, very minor," according to Petersohn, who also said the injury "had all the telltale signs of a shark bite."

FIRST AID: "We bandaged him up and he walked off and went home," Petersohn said.

TREATMENT: Unknown

SPECIES INVOLVED: Thompson believed he was injured by a four- to five-foot bull shark.

SOURCE: Interview with Robert Thompson by Debbie Salamone, Global Shark Accident File

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Debbie Salamone