

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2005.11.27](#)

DATE: Sunday November 27, 2005

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean about 100 yards south of the south jetty at Ponce de Leon Inlet, New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

29°N, 81°W

NAME: Blake Perry

DESCRIPTION: He is a 23-year-old male from New Smyrna Beach. He is 5'10" in height, weighs 160 pounds, and was wearing black baggies with a blue and grey strip down both sides and a black and blue neoprene vest.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 12h57, New Smyrna Beach recorded scattered clouds, no rain, and 10-mile visibility. The air temperature was 77F [25C], dew point 64.4F [18C], humidity 65%, sea level pressure 30.06 inches [1017.8 hPa], and wind direction was SE at 20.7 mph [33.3 km/h], with gusts to 31.1 mph [50 km/h].

MOON PHASE: Waning Crescent, 18% of the moon's visible disk was illuminated. New Moon, December 1, 2005. Sunset was at 17h25.

SEA CONDITIONS: The surf was rough, about three feet, and turbid. Tide was incoming.

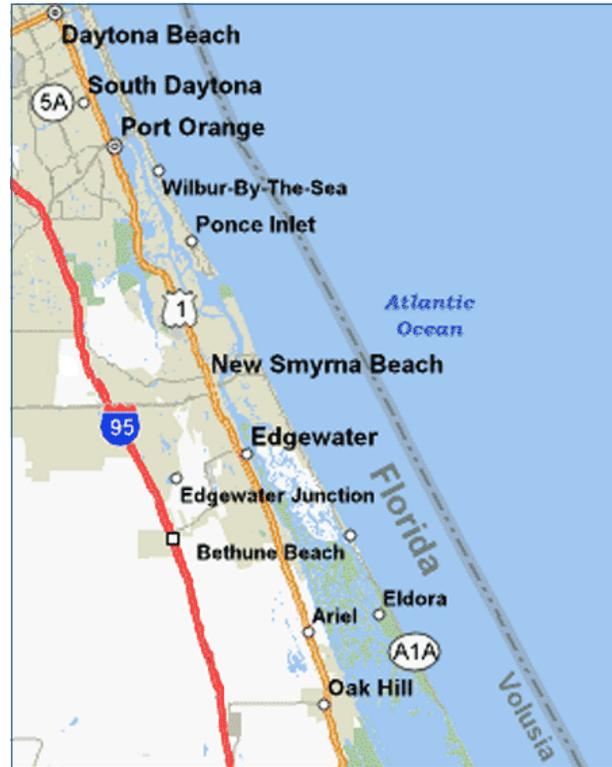
ENVIRONMENT: The incident took place in the surf zone. Beach Patrol officials report there are a lot of bait fish swimming closer to shore than usual. Conditions were similar to the previous incidents off Volusia County this month: same time, same depth of water, same poor visibility. A sign stating: "WARNING Dangerous Marine Life Are Common To This Area" was posted at the Beachway Approach, the only open vehicle access to the beach.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 25 yards

DEPTH OF WATER: Four feet

TIME: 13h00

NARRATIVE: Blake Perry had been surfing and after riding a wave he was about to push off the ocean floor with his hands when he "felt the rough skin [of the shark]." His hand was submerged (it was about 12 inches from the seafloor) when he was bitten. Perry grabbed the shark's dorsal fin and pulled his hand away. "It happened quick," he said. "At first, it didn't hurt. I looked at it and I was kind of in shock that I actually got bit." He paddled to shore.



Blake Perry

INJURY: Lacerations to both the top and bottom of the right thumb and the palm of the hand. Although the injury was considered minor, there was some tendon damage.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Perry was not treated by medics. An acquaintance took him to Bert Fish Medical Center in New Smyrna Beach, but he was later transported to Halifax Medical Center in Daytona Beach for surgery by a hand specialist.

SPECIES: Not identified. The shark was said to be about four feet in length.

SOURCES: Florida Today; Local 6 News

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Captain Scott Petersohn, Global Shark Accident File