

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2006.01.04

DATE: Wednesday January 4, 2006

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean, just south of Round Island Park, Indian River County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Unknown

DESCRIPTION: The surfer is a 21-year-old male, an experienced surfer from the Pacific west coast.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: It was unusually cold for the area with temperatures predicted to dip to 30°F by the weekend. Randy Lascody of the National Weather Service (NWS) in Melbourne said. "The reinforcing cold front will move through the state late [Thursday] night, then it will be just downhill on the temps." A dip in the jet stream mixed with a low- pressure system forming off the Carolinas will push cold air from Canada south into Florida on Thursday evening according the National Weather Service.

MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 25% of the Moon was illuminated.

ENVIRONMENT: Round Island Park is located on A1A South just north of the county line in Indian River County. The areas patrolled by lifeguards are for swimmers only; surfing typically takes place at unguarded areas.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 75 yards

TIME: 16h45 [4:45 p.m.]

NARRATIVE: The surfer was alone, floating on his board 15 yards south of the lifeguard tower, when he was bitten by the shark. An on-duty lifeguard noticed him shaking his arm vigorously while coming out of the water.

INJURY: The man sustained three puncture wounds on his right hand and wrist.

TREATMENT: According to John Frazier, lifeguard captain for Indian River County, the surfer was taken to the Indian River Memorial Hospital by ambulance. No one else was in the water or on the beach when the surfer was bitten by the shark.

SPECIES: Not identified. Frazier said the surfer told him the shark was about four feet in length.

SOURCES: Fort Pierce Tribune, January 5, 2006;
Adam L. Neal, January 6, 2006

