

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: **GSAF 2006.10.10**

DATE: Tuesday October 10, 2006

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean near the Ocean Walk Band Shell at Daytona Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

29.2°N, 81.0°W

NAME: Kyle Cody

DESCRIPTION: He is a 20-year-old male from North Carolina and on his honeymoon.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 11h53, Daytona recorded scattered clouds and visibility of 10 miles [16.1 km]. The air temperature was 78.1° F [25.6°C], dew point 61°F [16.1°C], humidity 56%, sea level pressure 30.01 inches [1016.2 hPa], and wind direction was variable at 4.6 mph [7.4 km/h].

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 84% of the moon's visible disk was illuminated. Full Moon, October 7, 2006. Last Quarter, October 14, 2006.

SEA CONDITIONS: Water visibility was poor.

ENVIRONMENT: During autumn, baitfish move close inshore, followed by predatory fish, including juvenile sharks. Beach Patrol officers reported that this year there has been an unusually high concentration of bait fish with large schools of mullet and other species of schooling fish right next to the beach. "Its like an aquarium here," said an officer.

DEPTH OF WATER: Knee-deep

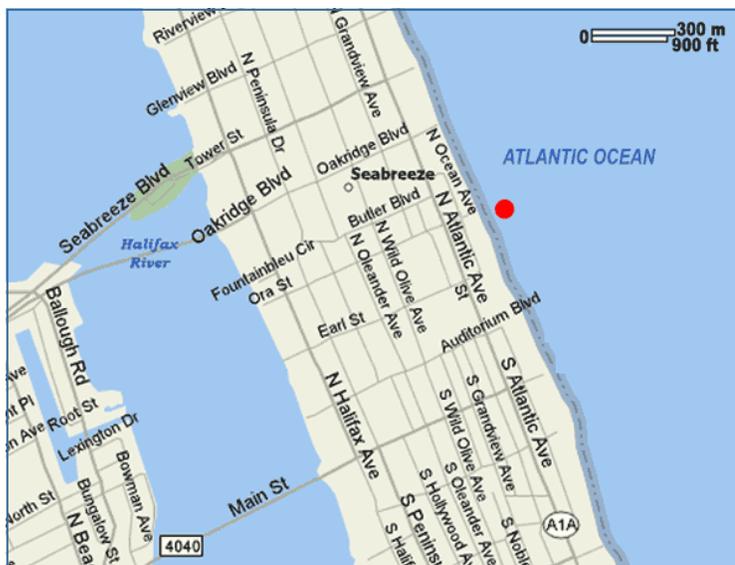
TIME: 11h30

NARRATIVE: "I was just standing there watching little fish jump and I felt a bite," said Kyle Cody. "We jumped out of the water. I never saw the fish or anything."

INJURY: The injury was considered minor and consisted of a couple of puncture wounds above his left ankle.

FIRST AID: Cody was treated on the beach by paramedics who advised him to go to a hospital for further treatment [one or two sutures at a hospital]. Afterwards, he walked away and was not transported to a hospital.

SPECIES: Not identified. Juvenile sharks are inexperienced hunters who often mistake surfers and other swimmers for fish. Typically, these one-foot to four-foot-long sharks nip and immediately let go. Although the Beach Patrol called this a shark bite, they were uncertain what injured the surfer. "It could've been bait fish, it could've been a shark," Captain Rob Horester from the Volusia County Beach Patrol said.



SOURCES: Central Florida News 13, <http://www.cfnews13.com/StoryHeadline.aspx?id=19256>; Daytona Beach News-Journal, <http://www.news-journalonline.com/NewsJournalOnline/News/EastVolusia/evIEAST01101106.htm>

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Captain Scott Petersohn, GSAF