

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2007.08.11](#)

DATE: Saturday August 11, 2007

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean, near Ponce Inlet, New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

29°N, 81°W

NAME: Mathew B. Barton

DESCRIPTION: He is a 19-year-old male, 5'8" in height and weighs 180 pounds. He was wearing dark blue swim trunks.

SURFBOARD: No description available

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 18h47, New Smyrna Beach recorded clear skies and visibility of seven miles [11.3 km]. The air temperature was 89.6°F [32°C], dew point 75.2°F [24°C], humidity 62%; sea level pressure 29.92 inches [1013.1 hPa], and wind direction was ESE at 13.8 mph [22.2 km/h].

MOON PHASE: New Moon, August 12, 2007

SEA CONDITIONS: The tide was incoming and the water was turbid with one- to two-foot surf. The sea temperature was 82°F [28°C].

ENVIRONMENT: Sandy beach

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 50 feet

DEPTH OF WATER: Knee-deep (1.5 feet)

TIME: 18h00 [6 p.m.]

NARRATIVE: Mathew Barton had been in the water about an hour. He had been surfing but at the time of the incident, he was walking out of the water when he felt something grab his left ankle. He did not see the shark before he was bitten. The shark made a single strike and was not seen afterwards, although the surfer saw its wake as it swam away. Nobody was within 50 feet of the surfer, but about 20 others were 100 to 200 feet from him. He exited the water and flagged down the Volusia County Beach Patrol for medical assistance.

INJURY: He sustained a 1.5-inch laceration to the lateral left ankle and a half-inch laceration to the dorsal surface of the left foot. Pre-op photos of the injury were taken by the Volusia County Beach Patrol.

TREATMENT: Unknown

SPECIES: Not identified.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Captain Scott Petersohn

