

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing / wading

**CASE:** GSAF 2007.08.25

**DATE:** Saturday August 25, 2007

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at the south side of Ponce Inlet, New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.  
29.1°N, 81°W

**NAME:** Taylor Smith

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 27-year-old male from New Smyrna Beach.

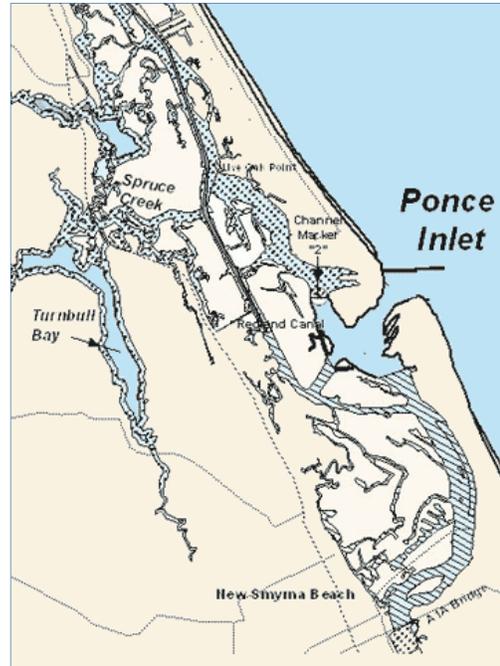
**BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Waxing Gibbous, 91% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated. Full Moon, August 28, 2007.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The sea surface temperature was 82°F, and the current was heading North. Surfing conditions were good with four to five-foot waves and a light chop. The sea was murky.

**ENVIRONMENT:** There were a lot of baitfish in the water, and all of the sharks feeding on them were one to three feet in length.

**TIME:** Shortly before 10h00



**NARRATIVE:** Taylor Smith had been surfing for about two hours and was paddling to stay in the white water when his left hand “got in the way of a shark”, said Smith. “I’ve seen sharks in the shallows plenty of times, hunting for small fish,” he said. “It was a very quick bite. Right when he realized I wasn’t a fish, he immediately let go.” Smith said he never felt any pain, just a bump against his left hand, which immediately swelled up. Despite having been bitten, the surfer said he will be back in the water as soon as his injuries heal. “I would have gone back out that day if I didn’t need stitches,” Smith said. “The waves out there were so much fun.”

**INJURY:** Smith had a line of six lacerations to the dorsal surface of his left hand.

**TREATMENT:** The New Smyrna Beach Fire Department was responding to a separate incident at the jetty so Smith walked over to them and said he had been bitten by a shark. He was treated on the scene and left in his own vehicle. He did not require NSBFD transport to a medical facility. Nine stitches were required to close the lacerations.

**SPECIES:** According to the surfer, the incident involved a six-foot shark, but it is more likely the shark was three feet or less in length.

**SOURCES:** WESH 2 News, <http://www.wesh.com/news/13974550/detail.html>; Ludmilla Leis, Orlando Sentinel, September 2, 2007

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Captain Scott Petersohn, GSAF