

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2008.02.15](#)

DATE: Friday February 15, 2008

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean on the south side of the Ponce de Leon jetty, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

29.1°N, 81°W

NAME: Harold Bradner

DESCRIPTION: He is a 25-year-old male from Edgewater. He was wearing a full length wetsuit, black and blue in color.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 17h51, New Smyrna Beach recorded clear skies and visibility of 10 miles [16.1 km]. The air temperature was 66.2°F [19°C], dew point 59°F [15°C], humidity 78%, sea level pressure 30.24 in [1023.9 hPa], and wind direction was NE at 6.9 mph [11.1 km/h]. Note: The Beach Patrol recorded an air temperature of 75°F.

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, February 13, 2008.

SEA CONDITIONS: The water temperature was 65°F and the tide was outgoing. The seas were moderate and the water was clear (i.e. the surfer could see the bottom).

ENVIRONMENT: The incident took place over a sandy seafloor. There was fishing activity about a quarter mile from the incident site and commercial fishermen were a half-mile to a mile away when the surfer was bitten.

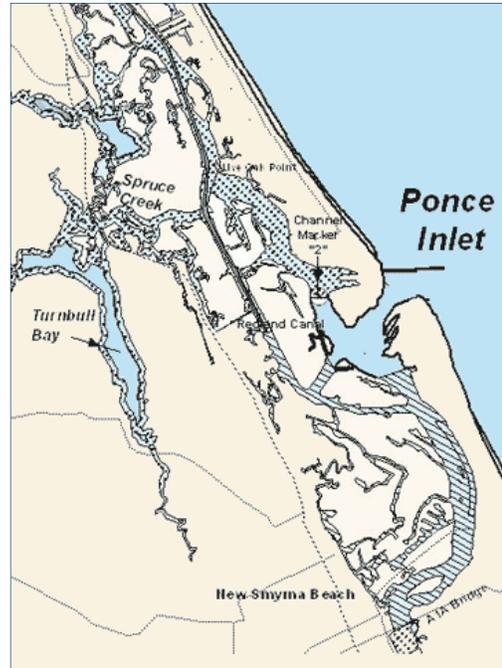
DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 yards, and 200 yards south of Ponce de Leon jetty.

DEPTH OF WATER: Three to four feet, although the surfer later said he thought the water was six to seven feet deep.

TIME: 16h25

NARRATIVE: No other people were within 10 feet of Harold Bradner, four or five were within 10 to 50 feet and another four or five were about 100 feet away. The surfer rode a wave and at the end of his ride he jumped off his board. He turned to retrieve his board and as he pushed off the bottom and attempted to hop back up on the board, he felt the shark bite his left foot. Bradner said he felt the pain and heaviness on his left foot and knew it was a shark. "In one bite, it got my whole foot in its mouth," said Bradner. The shark made only that single strike and let go. Then the surfer pulled himself onto his board and rode the next wave to shore.

INJURY: The surfer sustained a two-inch laceration to his left foot and several smaller



Harold Bradner

lacerations. No tendons were severed. "It mainly got the fleshy part between my heel and big toe which took 20 stitches to repair," said the surfer. "It also split open my third and fourth toes, which took five stitches to close, and gave me some minor lacerations on the left side of my foot and my other toes."

FIRST AID: "So I get out of the water and see that my foot was bleeding pretty good. I left a nice trail of blood from the water to my car. I threw my board in my car and drove about 100 yards to where a beach patrol officer was pulling someone over. I pulled next to him and he said to hold on because "I'm kind of busy right now". So I opened my door and stuck my bloody foot out and said "I got bit by a shark". That got his attention fast! I got onto the back of his truck. He takes pictures for the shark bite database and starts to wrap my foot up to stop the bleeding. I got a little dizzy from the shock/blood loss so I got a little oxygen to make me feel better. After that I drove myself to the hospital and checked into the emergency room.

TREATMENT: The patient was treated at Bert Fish Medical Center (401 Palmetto Drive, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168 - Tel: 386-424-5000) where his wounds were repaired with 25 stitches.

SPECIES: The surfer never saw the shark. However, the Beach Patrol and case investigators believe the incident involved a blacktip or spinner shark, five to six feet in length.

CASE INVESTIGATORS: Captain Scott Petersohn, Erich Ritter, Ph.D



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