

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** [GSAF 2015.10.21](#)

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean off Playalinda Beach, Brevard County, Florida, USA.

**NAME:** Michael Salinger

**DESCRIPTION:** A 21-year-old male.

### BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** At 14h58, Kennedy Space Center recorded a clear sky and 10-mile visibility. The air temperature was 82.4°F, heat index 84.8°F, dew point 66.6°F, humidity 59%, sea level pressure 30.17 inches and wind direction was East at 10.4 mph.

**MOON PHASE:** First Quarter, 59% of the Moon was illuminated.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The surf is larger than normal for this time of year, and the waves are bringing mullet closer to shore, creating a feeding ground for sharks.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Playalinda is located at the southern tip of the Canaveral National Seashore.

**TIME:** 14h30

**NARRATIVE:** “It hit me like a truck,” said Michael Salinger. It happened so fast it was like, ‘Boom!’ It knocked me off my board. All I remember was the impact. I remember this immense pressure onto my hand, but the thing I remember the most is the impact – the way it hit me – it was unbelievable. I'm panicking, I'm freaking out,” said Salinger. “I see this big, gray 5-foot shark staring me down, right next to me. He takes off and I hop back on my board and start paddling in.”

**INJURY:** Deep puncture wounds in left hand. “The shark] latched between my thumb and forefinger and severed the tendon that controls my pinky,” said Salinger.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** As Salinger ran down the beach he met lifelong surfer Mike ‘Scotty’ Burns who put pressure on the wound and shot cellphone video. Burns and a paramedic from Alaska sat the injured surfer down, grabbed a towel to stop the bleeding and tended to the injury to his left hand. The surfer was treated at Parish Medical Center and later released.

**SPECIES:** Not identified. According to the surfer, the shark was about five feet in length. It was thought the incident involved a bull shark chasing the schools of mullet. “The shark may have bitten my bone and chipped a piece of tooth off,” said Salinger. “So there still may be a little piece of him in there.”



*Michael Salinger*

**SOURCES:** ClickOrlando.com, October 21, 2015

<http://www.clickorlando.com/news/surfer-walks-away-from-shark-attack-at-playalinda-beach/35973360>

Local 10.com

<http://www.local10.com/news/surfer-walks-away-from-shark-attack-at-playalinda-beach/35978262>

Florida Today, October 22, 2015

<http://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/2015/10/22/surfer-bit-shark-off-playlinda-beach/74437530/>

Fox Orlando, October 22, 2015

<http://www.fox35orlando.com/news/local-news/37437086-story>

