



**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** [GSAF 1981.09.03.a](#)

**DATE:** Thursday September 3, 1981

**LOCATION:** The accident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Cocoa Beach, Brevard County, Florida, USA.

**NAME:** Douglas Christie

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 24-year-old male from Orlando.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**ENVIRONMENT:** The surfer said he “noticed a school of mullet earlier with four or five sharks cutting through feeding on them.”

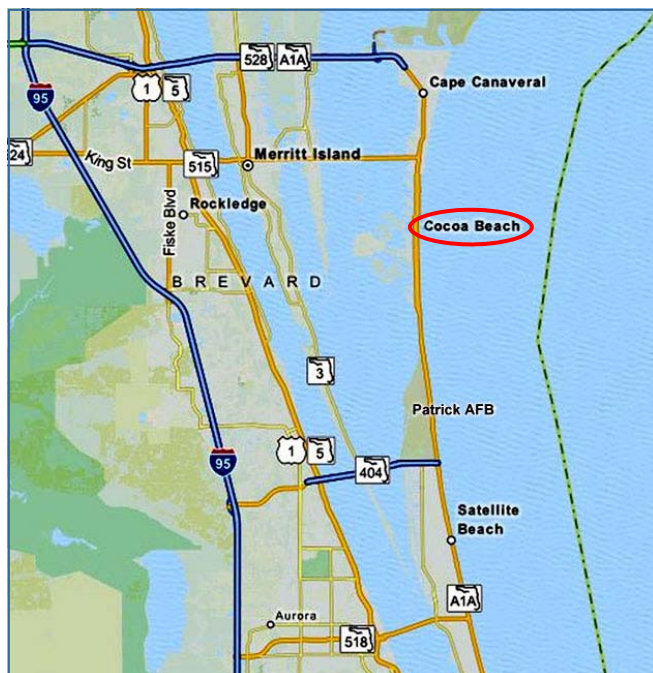
**NARRATIVE:** Douglas Christie had just re-entered the water after having lunch and was sitting on his surfboard with his legs in the water when he was knocked off by shark, “which then nibbled on his left foot”.

**INJURY:** Lacerations to foot.

**TREATMENT:** The injury to the surfer's foot required stitches.

**SPECIES:** Not identified

**SOURCE:** St. Petersburg Times, Saturday September 5, 1981, page 14 (see next page).



# Two attacked by sharks at Cocoa Beach

**Associated Press**

**COCOA BEACH** — Two more shark attacks have sent one man to a hospital for stitches and another for a tetanus shot to prevent infection.

Douglas Christie, 24, of Orlando, said he was sitting on his surfboard with his legs in the water Thursday when he was knocked off by a shark, which then nibbled on his left foot.

Christie, who received four stitches in his foot, said he had noticed a school of mullet earlier with "four or five sharks cutting through feeding on them."

He went ashore, had lunch and then returned. The shark attacked him a few minutes later off Cocoa Beach.

**RICHARD CORACK**, 25, had a similar experience while surfing near Patrick Air Force Base in Brevard County. He said he noticed several large schools of fish.

"The sharks were there, too, feeding on the fish. Then they went after me," he said.

"He was all over the place, a lot of white water. Then he nailed my hand," he said.

The bite on two middle fingers of his left hand didn't require any stitching but he went to a nearby hospital for an injection to prevent infection.

**OFFICIALS HAVE** recorded 12 shark attacks in waters off Florida's eastern coast and the Bahamas this year, five or six times the usual annual total, shark experts say. Another attack was recorded last month off Pensacola, in the Gulf of Mexico. Experts don't have an explanation for the number of attacks.

The shark attacks were the first reported in Brevard County this year, but last month, a young woman was killed by a shark off Volusia County, the neighboring county to the north.