



ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 1981.10.16

DATE: Friday October 16, 1981

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

NAME: Robert Kiefling

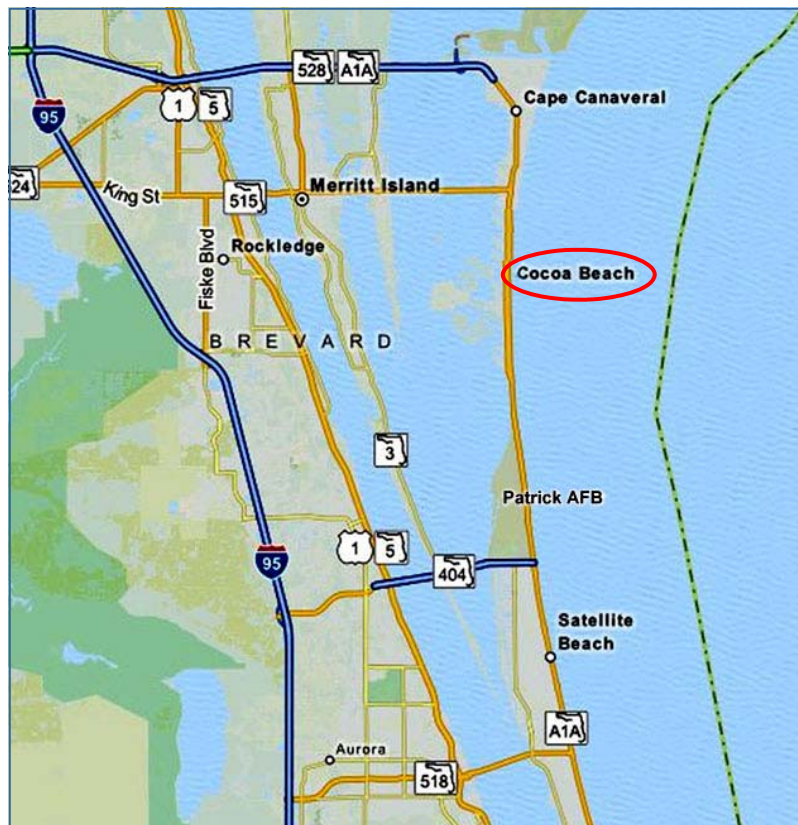
DESCRIPTION: He is a 17-year-old male from Cocoa Beach.

NARRATIVE: No details.

INJURY: The surfer's left foot was bitten.

TREATMENT: Five stitches were required to repair the wound.

SOURCE: The Bulletin, October 19, 1981 (see next page)



Swimmer slashed by shark

JUPITER ISLAND, Fla. (UPI) — A shark estimated to be 6 to 8 feet long struck a 19-year-old man who was swimming in waist deep water, slashing open most of his left hand and forearm in the 16th shark attack reported in Florida this year.

Attendants at Martin County Memorial Hospital in Stuart reported the victim, Van Horn Ely, in stable condition Monday following several hours of surgery. Doctors said Ely

was in shock when he arrived at the hospital but said there was no danger he would lose his hand.

Ely was attacked about 30 feet from shore in front of the Jupiter Island Beach Club where he works. He told medics he managed to pull his hand free and run to shore.

Another youth swimming nearby saw Ely run to shore with blood streaming down his arm about 11:45 a.m. and called police, who turned him over to an ambulance crew. He was rushed to the Stuart hospital, about 16 miles north of Jupiter Island.

Ely, who lives in a dormitory at the beach club, told the ambulance crew he was swimming when he felt the bite on his left hand but when he jerked away the shark let go. He said he saw the shark and estimated its length at 6 to 8 feet.

A Jupiter Island police spokesman said the shark bite slashed open Ely's left hand and arm "from the palm to three-quarters the way up to his elbow."

Life guards closed the beach at the club to swimmers the remainder of the day and, at the request of local police, the nearby Hobe Sound beach

also was closed. Chief life guard Rich Noyes said it would reopen today. He termed the shark attack an "isolated phenomenon."

Small bait fish that sharks feed on migrate along the Atlantic coast during the spring and fall and are pushed toward shore when brisk northeast winds blow as they have been the past two days. Residents along Florida's east coast have reported that schools of bait fish seem to be coming unusually close to shore this year.

The last reported shark attack in the state occurred at Cocoa Beach Friday. Robert Kiefling, 17, of Cocoa became the 14th reported victim when he was bitten on the left foot while he was surfing. The puncture wound required five stitches.

Two of the shark victims earlier this year died.

Mark Meeker, 26, bled to death Sept. 19 after when a shark laid open his thigh as he tried to swim across Tampa Bay on a bet. Christy Wapniarski, 19, was attacked and apparently bled to death Aug. 14 off Ormond Beach while swimming to shore from a capsized catamaran with three other people.