

**ACTIVITY:** Spearfishing / free diving

**CASE:** GSAF 1984.11.04

**DATE:** Sunday November 4, 1984

**LOCATION:** The incident took place at Fowey Rock, 6.5 miles southeast of the southern end of Key Biscayne, Florida, USA.

*25°35'N, 80°5'W*

**NAME:** Andres Ferro

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 29-year-old male from Miami.

**BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, November 8, 1984

**DEPTH OF WATER:** 60 feet

**NARRATIVE:** Andres Ferro was injured by a small shark that he had attempted to spear.

**INJURY:** His right knee was bitten and he sustained lacerations to his right thigh and buttocks.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** The dive boat brought the diver to Dinner Key. Miami Fire Department transported the diver from Dinner Key to Mercy Hospital. From there, he was transferred to Jackson Memorial Hospital for treatment.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Not identified. The shark was three to four feet in length

**NOTE:** This is a provoked incident; the shark bit the diver only after he attempted to spear it.

**SOURCE:** Miami Herald, November 5, 1984, *et al*



*Fowey Rock Light*

## **All-gnawing shark turns on attacker**

Diver Andres Ferro bit off a lot more than he could chew when he speared a 4-foot shark off Florida's Atlantic coast. The shark got mad and bit the daylights out of him!

The 29-year-old free diver speared the shark in about 60 feet of water off Fowey Rock, east of Miami. Because he wasn't using scuba gear, Ferro had to surface for air.

But when he went down to finish off his prey, the shark was waiting for him and it was Ferro, not the shark, that became the hunted.

Quick as a flash, the shark sank its razor-sharp teeth into Ferro's knee, thigh and buttocks, inflicting wounds an inch wide, two inches deep and a foot long.

Other divers rushed him to shore where he was taken to a hospital for treatment.

# Diver bit by shark he shot at

By KEN BRESLER  
*Herald Writer*

Man bit shark and shark bit  
back.

A small shark didn't take kindly to skin diver Andres Ferro's attempt to spear it in 60 feet of water off Fowey Rock Sunday. It bit the 29-year-old Miamian on the right knee, and slashed his right thigh and buttocks with its teeth.

Ferro, 29, was in stable condition at Jackson Memorial Hospital Sunday night. Ferro told the Miami Fire Department, which took him from Dinner Key to Mercy Hospital where he was first treated, that he had fired his spear gun at a 3- to 4-foot shark while free diving approximately five miles southeast of Cape Florida.

Free divers don't use scuba tanks.

Ferro then surfaced for air and went back down for more shark-shooting when his target turned assailant, said Lt. Carl Smyly of the fire department.

Smyly predicted that Ferro would need extensive surgery and many stitches. "He'll have some good scars," said the lieutenant.

Ferro, of 2819 S.W. Third St., had been diving off a boat with other people, who brought him to Dinner Key after he was bitten. Smyly said he was "extremely calm."

"He wasn't excited at all. I was surprised. The whole time, the man was really super," said Smyly.

Ferro's wounds were washed at Mercy Hospital. He was taken aback when told that he would need intravenous antibiotic treatment that would take five days and would require a hospital stay, said a hospital staffer. Such treatment is standard to prevent infection from animal bites, she said.

Ferro had been "hoping to get sewed up, put a bandage on, and get himself home," said the staffer. She would not allow herself to be identified because she said information is usually released by the hospital's public relations firm.

Ferro was transferred to Jackson, which handles uninsured patients, and was in fair and stable condition Sunday night.

Ferro could not be reached for comment because the hospital does not allow calls to the emergency room.