

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing  
**CASE:** GSAF 1987.05.08  
**DATE:** Friday May 8, 1987  
**LOCATION:** The incident took place at St Augustine Beach, St. Johns County, Florida, USA.

**NAME:** Robert Gault  
**DESCRIPTION:** The surfer is from St. Augustine.

**BACKGROUND**  
**SEA CONDITIONS:** The water was murky.

**NARRATIVE:** "It just came out of the water and grabbed my arm and let go," said Robert Gault. "After I got my hand away from it, it didn't strike at me again."

**INJURY:** Lacerations to hand and wrist.

**DAMAGE TO SURFBOARD:** No damage

**TREATMENT:** Some 26 stitches were need to repair the injury.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Not identified. Gault said the shark was smaller than him and believes the animal mistook him for something else.

**SOURCES:** The Ledger (Lakeland, Florida), Sunday May 10, 1987, page 14; Orlando Sentinel, May 10, 1987 edition, page B.2



## Surfer hurt in shark attack

The Associated Press

**ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH —** A St. Augustine surfer attacked by a small shark required 26 stitches to close a wound on his left hand and wrist, and says he believes the animal mistook him for something else in murky water.

"It just came out of the water and grabbed my arm and let go. After I got my hand away from it, it didn't strike at me again," Robert Gault said Friday.

Gault said the attack was very quick and he could only tell that the shark was smaller than he was.

"It's such a freak thing," he said. "I'll be less likely to go out alone."