

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** **GSF 1987.12.17**

**DATE:** Thursday December 17, 1987

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean off 860 South Ocean Boulevard in Palm Beach, a mile north of real estate developer Donald Trump's *Mar-a-Lago* Estate, Palm Beach County, Florida, USA.  
26.7°N, 80.0°W



**NAME:** Timothy Knipper

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 16-year-old male of 3101 Ridgeway Avenue in West Palm Beach.

### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Waning Crescent, 14% of the moon's visible disk was illuminated. New Moon, December 20, 1987

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 200 feet

**TIME:** 13h00

**NARRATIVE:** Timothy Knipper was sitting on his surfboard waiting for a wave when the shark approached from behind and grabbed his left calf. After the incident, police and lifeguards cleared the public beaches and warned surfers on the private beaches to stay alert. Most surfers were undeterred; by late Thursday afternoon, throngs of surfers were riding glassy afternoon waves.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** The surfer struggled to shore, where a beachgoer called for an ambulance. He was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital in West Palm Beach, treated and released. Doctors say the teen will require reconstructive surgery.

**SPECIES:** According to the surfer, the shark was a blacktip shark, 1.8 metres [six feet] in length. Later the same afternoon surfers reported seeing a six-foot-long shark cruising offshore.

**SOURCES:** St. Petersburg Times, December 18, 1987; Dexter Filkins, Miami Herald, December 18, 1987, Palm Beach section, page 1PB; Chronicle Telegram, Friday, December 18, 1987

### ***Shark mauls boy on surfboard***

**Knight-Ridder Newspapers**

**PALM BEACH, Fla. —** A 16-year-old West Palm Beach boy was mauled by a shark as he sat on surfboard waiting for the next wave.

**Timothy Knipper, 16,** lost a chunk of his left calf Thursday when the large sea predator tore into him from behind, police said.