



ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 1988.09.28](#)

DATE: Wednesday September 28, 1988

LOCATION: The accident took place in the Atlantic Ocean near the Flagler Avenue Approach at New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Chris Garvin

DESCRIPTION: He is a 21-year-old male from Fort Lauderdale.

BACKGROUND

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was murky.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 150 yards

TIME: Afternoon

NARRATIVE: Chris Garvin was dangling his feet over the side of his board when he felt something clamp onto his leg.

INJURY: There was an arc of incisions on both sides of the surfer's foot. The arc was six or seven inches in diameter.

TREATMENT: The surfer was treated at West Volusia Hospital in Deland and released.

SPECIES: Not identified, but it was thought that the surfer was bitten by a shark about five feet in length.

SOURCE: The News-Journal, Thursday September 29, 1988, page 16

Shark bites surfer's foot

NEW SMYRNA BEACH A 21-year-old Stetson student apparently was attacked by a shark Wednesday afternoon while surfing near Flagler Avenue approach, a beach safety spokesman said.

Chris Garvin of Fort Lauderdale was dangling his feet over the side of his surfboard about 150 yards from shore when he felt something clamp onto his left leg, said Lt. Jack Driskell of the Division of Beach Safety.

"(Garvin) was screaming when he hit the shore," a witness said. "He was afraid to look down and see if his toes were still there." The water was murky and Garvin did not see what bit him, Driskell said.

The wound was "obviously" a shark bite, he said, because of the semicircular incisions on both sides of Garvin's foot. "The bite mark arch was six or seven inches from one side to another," he said. "I don't know of any blue fish (that has a bite) of that size."

Driskell said the shark was probably about 5 feet long.

This time of year is especially hazardous for swimmers here, he said, because "the normal migration pattern drives more fish into the warm water climate and that brings more predators," he said. "Where there's food, there's going to be feeding."

The incident was the fourth shark bite in Volusia County this year, he said, and the second in New Smyrna Beach.

Garvin was treated at West Volusia Hospital in DeLand and released, a hospital spokesman said.