



ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: **GSAF 1988.10.10**

DATE: Monday October 10, 1988

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

28°39'53"N, 80°38'21"W

NAME: Pat Turowski

DESCRIPTION: He is a 23-year-old male, a truck driver and equipment operator for the Orange County Highway Department. He also was the Eastern Surfing Association's seventh-ranked surfer for 1986-87 and finished ninth in the nationals in 1987.



BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT: Playalinda Beach is on a barrier Island separated from the mainland by the Indian River. The barrier island is a thin ribbon of sand lying between the Atlantic Ocean and Mosquito Lagoon. In some places it is no more than 100 yards wide. Unlike many barrier islands with primary and secondary dunes, Playalinda has only a single dune.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 25 to 30 feet

DEPTH: Five to six feet

TIME: 18h30

NARRATIVE: The incident took place while Turowski was practicing for a surfing contest to be held at Playalinda on the weekend. "I had just caught a wave and was turning around to go back out when the shark grabbed my right hand and pulled me off my board. He pulled me on top of him, so I squeezed him on the midsection. I just squeezed him one time, and he let go."

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INJURY: Lacerations to hand.

TREATMENT: Turowski required stitches in his hand, and doctors believe some ligaments may have been damaged.

SPECIES: The surfer estimated the shark was 1.2- to 1.5-metres [four to five] in length.

SOURCES: Pat Turowski; Gary Taylor, Orlando Sentinel, October 12, 1988, page D3