



ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 1994.05.31.a](#)

DATE: Tuesday May 31, 1994

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at the University Boulevard beach approach in Daytona Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Alex Reeber

DESCRIPTION: He is a 28-year-old male from Daytona Beach, Florida.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 57% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated. Last Quarter, June 1, 1994.

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was murky. Strong onshore winds and rough seas reduced underwater visibility

TIME: 08h00

NARRATIVE: Alex Reeber had just finished riding a wave and jumped off his board. "I stepped onto a sandbar and the shark grabbed my right foot and began wiggling, and then he went berserk for a few seconds," said Reeber. He said he didn't jerk away from the shark, but kept still until the shark jumped out of the water, spinning as it leaped. "That shark was looking for bait fish, and I probably stepped on its head," said Reeber.

INJURY: The surfer's right foot (or calf) was lacerated. "And there were a bunch of U-shaped four-inch gashes," said the surfer.

TREATMENT: The surfer's injury was repaired with 34 stitches at Halifax Medical Center in Daytona Beach.

SPECIES INVOLVED: According to the surfer, the incident involved a spinner shark.

SOURCES: Ocala Star-Banner, Wednesday June 1, 1994, page 7; Orlando Sentinel, June 1, 1994, page C1; Pat LaMee, Orlando Sentinel, September 4, 1995, page C3

Daytona surfers bitten by sharks

The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH — Two surfers were bitten on the feet by sharks within an hour Tuesday about eight miles apart.

Alex Reeber, 28, knew he was in trouble when he fell off his surfboard and felt a tug on his right foot off Daytona Beach.

"He pulled away from it, jumped up on his surfboard, and a four-foot spinner shark jumped up right in front of him," said Joe Wooden, lifeguard captain with the Volusia County Beach Department.

Reeber had severe cuts on the outside and bottom of his foot, Wooden said.

In the second incident off Wilbur-by-the-Sea, Steven Pollak, 24, also was injured on his right foot but

didn't see anything in the water with him.

Doctors at Halifax Regional Medical Center concluded the injury was caused by a shark, Wooden said. Both men were released after treatment at the hospital.

The latest attacks bring the number of shark bites to eight so far this year in Florida. Volusia County leads with four, two have been reported near Cocoa, and one each was reported in Miami Beach and Jacksonville.

"This is a typical occurrence," Wooden said. "As the water temperature warms up, we have schooling fish that make their way into the warmer, shallower waters with sharks feeding among those fish. And at the same time we have beach patrons that are eagerly waiting for those water temperatures to rise."

Ocala Star-Banner, Wednesday June 1, 1994, page 7