

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** [GSAF 1996.09.02.b](#)

**DATE:** Monday September 2, 1996

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Bethune Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

29°N, 81°W

**NAME:** Richard Schwall

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 25-year-old male from Orlando, Florida.

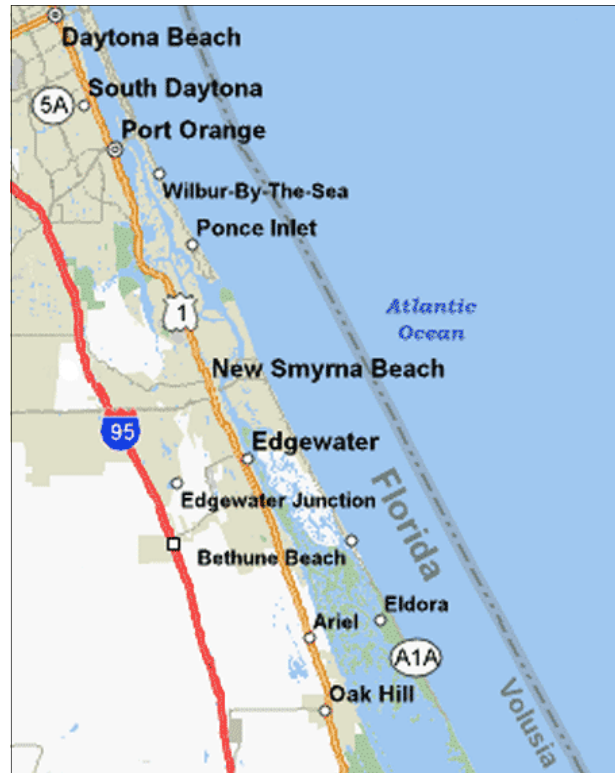
**BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Waning Gibbous — 73% of the moon illuminated, September 2, 1996.  
Last Quarter, September 4, 1996

**DEPTH OF WATER:** One metre

**TIME:** 18h05

**NARRATIVE:** He was entering the water near the Bethune Park wall when he was bitten on the foot. The shark made a single strike and released him. The surfer returned to shore with his board and summoned his friends for assistance.



**INJURY:** There was a semi-circular pattern of nine small incisions/lacerations on the sole of his right foot

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** The surfer's friends stopped the bleeding and took him by private car to the Flagler Lifeguard Parking Area, arriving there at 18h40. First aid was administered by the lifeguards. None of the wounds required suturing and the patient was advised to seek follow-up care, including a tetanus shot.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** The injury suggests that the surfer was injured by a shark about four feet total length.

**SOURCES:** Orlando Sentinel, September 4, 1996; Daytona Beach News-Journal, September 7, 1999, page 4C.

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Captain Scott Petersohn