

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 1997.05.31.a

DATE: Saturday May 31, 1997

LOCATION: The incident took place south of the municipal pier off South Seventh Street in Flagler Beach, Flagler County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Johnny Bowden

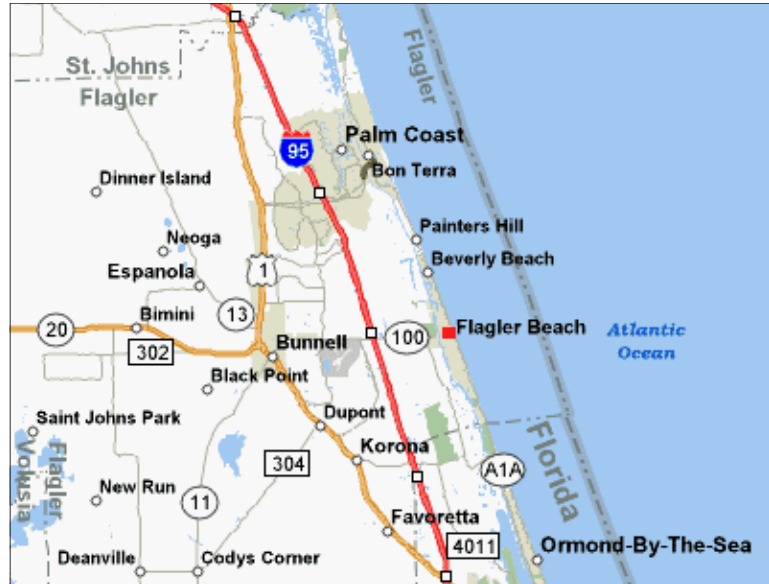
DESCRIPTION: He is a 12-year-old male from Lakeland, Florida. He had been surfing for about six years.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Third Quarter, May 29, 1997

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 200 yards

TIME: 11h00



NARRATIVE: Johnny Bowden and his father, Bob Bowden, had come to the beach for a day of surfing. Johnny went into the water first. He said he fell off his board when something grabbed his leg. "I felt it chomping on my leg, so I got back on my board and paddled back in," he said. He called to his father, "Dad, I just got bit by a shark."

INJURY: He was bitten several times on the left ankle.

FIRST AID: The boy's father put pressure on the largest wound until Flagler Beach Patrol Captain Darrell McDonough and lifeguards Danny Balough and Josh Miller arrived.

TREATMENT: Paramedics arrived on scene and treated the boy and he was taken to Memorial Hospital-Flagler. Bob Bowden said his son's Achilles tendon was damaged, requiring about two hours of suturing, and he will not be allowed any running or jumping for about six weeks. Johnny Bowden said the incident won't stop him from surfing again.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Lifeguards thought the bite may have been caused by a sand shark because of the size of the bites.

SOURCE: Andrew Mikula, Daytona Beach News Journal, June 1, 1997 edition, page 2C
Daytona Beach News Journal, June 4, 1997