

ACTIVITY: Body surfing

CASE: **GSAF 1997.06.02**

DATE: Monday June 2, 1997

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

29.2°N, 81.0°W



Sunglow fishing pier at Daytona Beach Shores

NAME: Douglas Amelio

DESCRIPTION: He is a 33-year-old male from Atlanta, Georgia.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 10h53, Daytona Beach recorded overcast skies and visibility of 10 miles. The air temperature was 75°F [23.9°C], dew point 70°F [21.1°C], humidity 84%, sea level pressure 29.75 inches [1007.2 hPa], and wind direction was West at 6.9 mph [11.1 km/h].

MOON PHASE: New Moon

DEPTH OF WATER: Three feet

TIME: 10h25

NARRATIVE: Douglas Amelio was bodysurfing with his girlfriend when he stood up on a sandbar and felt something grab his left leg. Amelio ran to shore.

INJURY: He sustained four lacerations above his left ankle. His injuries were not considered life-threatening.

TREATMENT: He was treated at Columbia Medical Center in Ormond Beach.

SPECIES: Amelio said the shark was about 1.2 metres [four feet] in length. Lifesavers thought the incident may have involved a spinner shark.

SOURCES: D. Treen; Florida Times-Union, Tuesday June 3, 1997; Miami Herald, June 3, 1997; Sarasota Herald-Tribune, June 3, 1997, page 7B

Shark attacks surfer in Daytona

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAYTONA BEACH — An Atlanta man was bit in the leg by a 4-foot shark while body-surfing Monday.

Douglas Amelio, 33, suffered four cuts above his left ankle. He was taken to Columbia Medical Center in Ormond Beach for treatment but his injuries weren't life-threatening.

Amelio was body surfing with his girlfriend when he stood up on a sandbar about three feet deep and felt something grab his left leg, said Scott Petersohn, a supervisor for the Volusia County Beach Patrol.

Amelio ran to shore and was helped by a lifeguard who bandaged his leg.

It was the first reported shark bite of the year in Volusia County, Petersohn said. Two people were treated during the weekend for shark bites in Flagler County, just to the north along the Atlantic Coast.

In Volusia County, most shark bites occur in the Ponce Inlet near New Smyrna Beach.

"We've never had anything that's life-threatening," Petersohn said. "It's usually no more severe than a bad dog bite."