



ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 1997.10.24

DATE: Friday October 24, 1997

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean off Fort Pierce Inlet State Park, St. Lucie County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Luis Morales

DESCRIPTION: He is a 22-year-old male from Miami.



BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Third Quarter, October 23, 1997

ENVIRONMENT: Fort Pierce Inlet State Park, a 340-acre part of the Florida State Park system, is located just north of the Fort Pierce Inlet on North Hutchinson Island. It consists of beaches, dunes and coastal hammock between the waters of the Atlantic Ocean and Tucker Cove, an indentation of the Indian River Lagoon. Another surfer, a 12-year-old boy from St. Lucie, was bitten on the foot by a shark on Tuesday off Fort Pierce Inlet State Recreation Area.

TIME: 17h15

NARRATIVE: Luis Morales was surfing near the North Jetty when his foot was bitten by a shark. "I hadn't even been in half an hour; I was just getting warmed up and he got me. He pretty much had my foot in his mouth," Morales said. "I just yanked on it and got my foot out."

INJURY: The surfer sustained a five-inch gash to his foot. His injuries appeared minor.

TREATMENT: The surfer's injury was sutured at Columbia Lawnwood Regional Hospital.

SPECIES: Possibly a blacktip shark about five or six feet long, according to the surfer.

SOURCES: Palm Beach Post, October 25, 1997, page 3B; Fort Pierce News, October 25 & 31, 1997