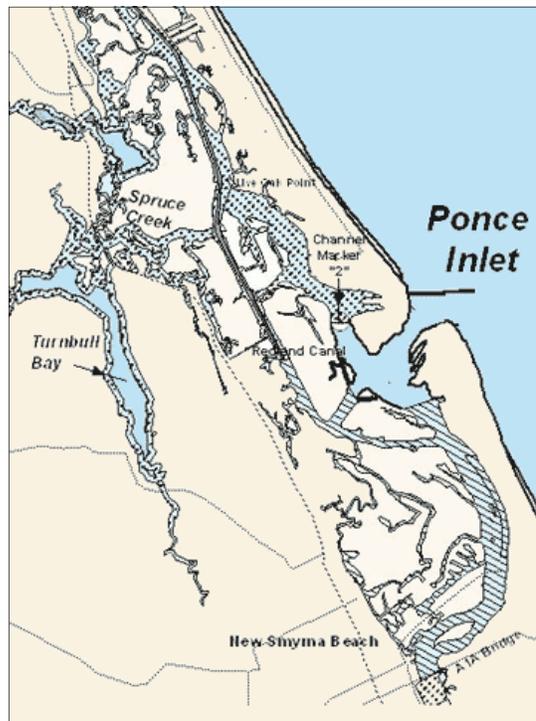**ACTIVITY:** Surfing
CASE: GSAF 1998.08.30
DATE: Sunday August 30, 1998
LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Ponce Inlet, near the north jetty, New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.
29.1°N, 81°W

NAME: J.J. Howington
DESCRIPTION: He is a 26-year-old male from Daytona Beach. He was wearing brown board shorts.

BACKGROUND
MOON PHASE: First Quarter
SEA CONDITIONS: The water was turbid.
ENVIRONMENT: A shark was seen 30 yards beyond the outside break just 30 minutes before the surfer was bitten.
DEPTH OF WATER: Five feet
TIME: 20h15

NARRATIVE: The surfer was alone in the water; there had been about eight other surfers in the water but they had just paddled in. "It was almost dark and I could barely see the waves. I caught my last one and got tubed. It closed out and I got knocked to the bottom. I started to get up on the board when I felt a sharp pressure clamp on my right foot. I put my feet up and paddled in immediately," said the surfer.

INJURY: The surfer sustained lacerations to his right foot. There were T-shaped cuts on the bottom of four toes, starting with the big toe.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: This incident was reported after the bite to the Volusia County Beach Patrol by an off-duty beach patrol officer who was surfing with Howington. No beach patrol unit was called. The surfer was taken by private vehicle to his family physician, Tom Bullock, M.D., for treatment. Four stitches were required to repair the laceration to the surfer's middle toe.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified. According to the surfer, the shark was three to four feet in length.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Captain Scott Petersohn, Volusia County Beach Patrol and GSAF

NOTE: The following day (August 31, 1998), Captain Petersohn learned of two more incidents involving local surfers. However, the injuries were not severe enough to call Volusia County Beach Patrol and the patients obtained medical care on their own.