

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** **GSAF 1998.10.10**

**DATE:** Saturday October 10, 1998

**LOCATION:** The incident took place at Sebastian Inlet, Florida, USA

**NAME:** Jarod Ruskowski

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a Venice High School freshman from Nokomis.

**BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Third Quarter, October 12, 1998

**ENVIRONMENT:** There were schools of mullet in the water.

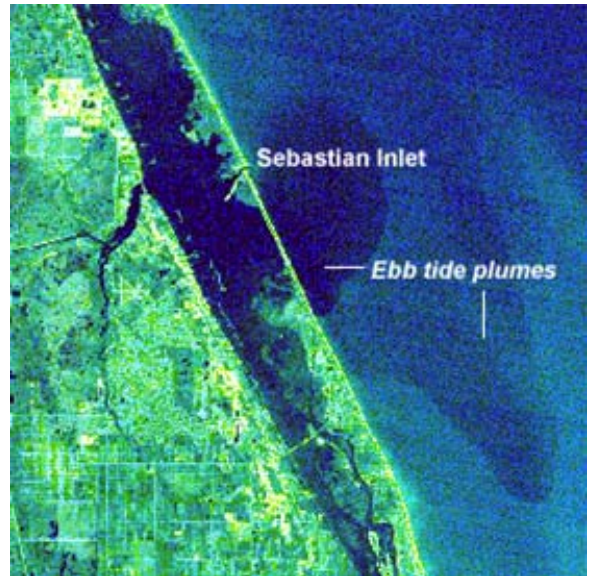
**NARRATIVE:** He was surfing with his friends when the incident took place. "I was just paddling out, and it just grabbed onto my hand, only for like a second," .said the surfer.

**INJURY:** The surfer's right hand was lacerated.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** Unknown

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Unknown.

**SOURCE:** Sarasota Herald-Tribune, October 13, 1998, page 8B



# Boy bitten by shark while surfing

"It just grabbed onto my hand," said the Nokomis teen, who was attacked off Florida's East Coast.

By **Andy Crain**  
STAFF WRITER

Although he would rather spend his time hanging ten off the beach with his friends, Jarod Ruskowski will spend the next few weeks hanging out on the dry side of the beach.

Ruskowski, a Venice High School freshman from Nokomis, nearly lost his right hand to a feeding shark over the weekend. He and two friends were surfing Saturday near the

students, Nick Horobec and Pete Murray, had taken part in a National Scholastic Surfing Association competition earlier in the day.

Saturday evening, the three headed out to surf for fun. Murray was surfing in a pack of about 20 other surfers; Ruskowski and Horobec were a bit farther down the beach.

Then something caught Horobec's eye.

"He was paddling, and all of a sudden the water got all rumbley around him, and he started yelling," Horobec said.

Horobec paddled over to his friend and brought him to shore, and Horobec's mother called an ambulance. Ruskowski was taken to a local hospital. He was released after surgery.

His friends suspect that Ruskowski had the bad luck to be paddling near a school of mullet that a shark was feeding on, and that he was bitten by mistake by a shark that thought his hand was a fish.

Ruskowski said the attack won't scare him away from surfing. He expects to be riding the waves again once his hand is healed, which should be in three to eight weeks, doctors said.

"As soon as it's fixed, I'm going right back out," Ruskowski said. "It was scary, but there's no way I would hang up my board for good."

*Andy Crain covers the city of Venice. He can be reached by phone at 486-3070.*