

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE GSAF 1998.12.24

DATE: Thursday December 24, 1998

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean a short distance north of the Amsden Road Approach (1000 block of Ocean Shore Boulevard), Ormond Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.
29.3°N, 81.1°W



NAME: Andy Thompson

DESCRIPTION: He is a 19-year-old college student from Randolph, New Jersey.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 29% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated. First Quarter December 26, 1998.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 200 yards south of the Coral Sands Motel.

TIME: 08h30

NARRATIVE: Andy Thompson and his 17-year-old brother, Brad, had been surfing together for about 15 minutes when he fell off his board in six feet of water. He was walking over a sand bar when he stepped on a shark. As he pulled his foot away, the shark turned and bit his left foot. He pulled his foot away again and the shark bit his foot a second time. Then Andy jumped on his surfboard and paddled to shore.

INJURY: The surfer's left foot was bitten twice, severing tendons in his toes.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: A bystander wrapped a towel around the surfer's foot. EVAC personnel applied dressings and bandages provided by EMS. The patient was transported to Halifax Medical Center. A plastic surgeon repaired the damage with more than 200 stitches and the teen was discharged the next day. Thompson returned home to New Jersey (on crutches) on Thursday December 31, 1998.

SPECIES: Not identified. Thompson said doctors estimated the shark was 4.5 to 5 feet in length.

SOURCES: Linda Trimble, Daytona Beach News Journal, January 1, 1999, page 6C; Tallahassee Democrat, January 2, 1999

NOTE: This was a provoked incident.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Captain Scott Petersohn, Volusia County Beach Patrol and Global Shark Accident File.