



ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 1999.02.03

DATE: Wednesday February 3, 1999

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean off Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge, Martin County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Kenny Burns

DESCRIPTION: He is a 25-year-old male from Palm Beach Gardens, a student at Palm Beach Community College.



BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, January 31, 1999

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 50 yards

TIME: 15h30

NARRATIVE: Kenny Burns was surfing with friends and was paddling back out. "The shark came up underneath me and clamped tight on my left hand and thrashed around for about five seconds before letting go," he said.

INJURY: The surfer's left hand was bitten by the shark. Tendons were torn and he sustained nerved damage.

TREATMENT: A friend drove him to a local hospital, then he was transferred to St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach where he underwent eight hours of surgery. It was thought he could regain full use of his hand with two months of rehabilitation.

SPECIES: It was thought the incident involved a spinner shark.

NOTE: This is the surfer's second shark bite in 11 years; in April 1988 he was surfing at Singer Island, Riviera Beach when his right hand was bitten by a shark.

SOURCES: Palm Beach Post, February 5, 1999, page 1B

St. Petersburg Times, February 6, 1999

The Miami Herald, February 5, 1999