

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: GSAF 1999.08.05

DATE: Thursday August 5, 1999

LOCATION: The accident took place in the Atlantic Ocean opposite his condominium in the 6200 block of South Atlantic Avenue (Bethune Beach Area) of New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

29.0°N, 81.0°W

NAME: Charles Adkins

DESCRIPTION: He is a 62-year-old male from Wayne, West Virginia. He has a condominium in the 6200 block of Bethune Beach. He was wearing solid dark blue swimming trunks and a gold wedding band.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Last Quarter

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was clear.

DEPTH OF WATER: Three feet

TIME: 11h25



NARRATIVE: Charles was accompanied by his family to the beach. He had been in the water about 30 minutes and had been standing near his wife, Joyce. As he dived into a breaking wave, his ankle and foot were bitten. He surfaced and yelled “Shark!”, said his wife, and she saw a shark fin about one foot in height cutting through the water moving northwards away from her husband and parallel to shore.

INJURY: The swimmer’s right heel, foot and ankle were bitten by the shark; he sustained punctures, incisions and lacerations and an artery in the foot was punctured.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Paramedics transported Adkins to Bert Fish Memorial Hospital in New Smyrna Beach where Dr. Appleton repaired the injury.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Unknown. The shark was said to be four to five feet in length.

SOURCES: Orlando Sentinel, August 6, 1999, page D3; Mark I. Johnson, Daytona Beach News-Journal, August 6, 1999; page 3C

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Captain Scott Petersohn

WEST VIRGINIA MAN BITTEN ON ANKLE, FOOT BY SHARK

NEW SMYRNA BEACH - A 62-year-old West Virginia man was bitten by a shark Thursday morning while swimming in the Bethune Beach area.

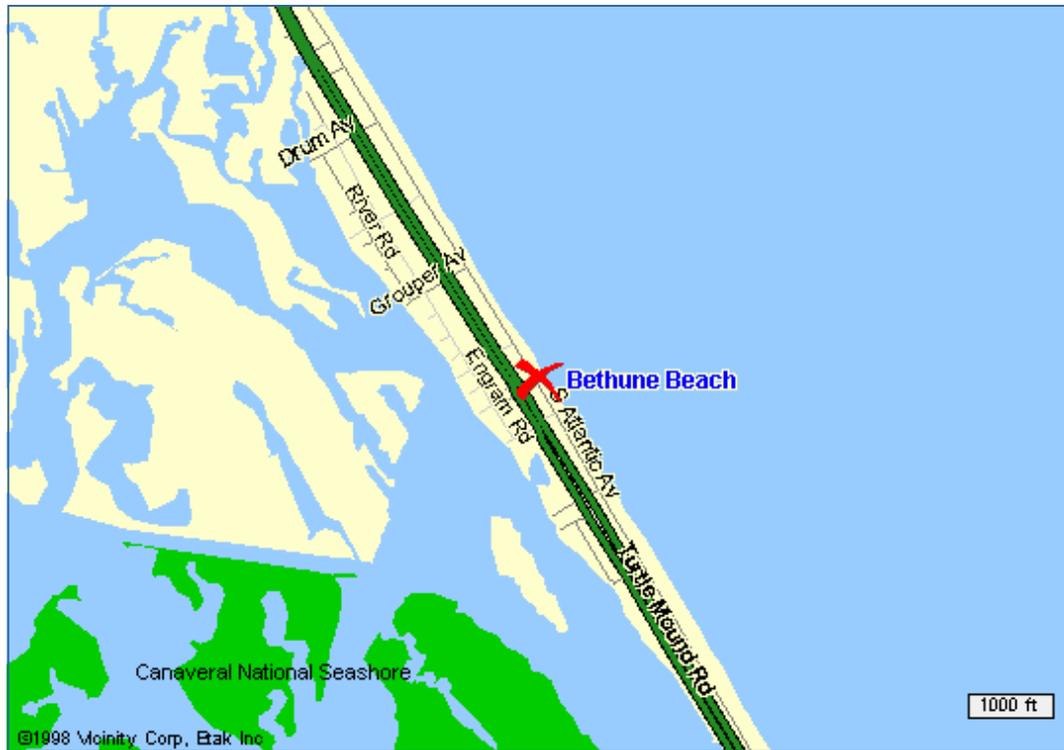
Charles Adkins, of Wayne, W.Va., was swimming near the 6500 block of South Atlantic Avenue when he felt the bite on his right ankle and foot at 11:25 a.m., said Volusia Deputy Beach Chief Joe Wooden.

Adkins had been in waist-deep water and was diving into a breaking wave when his wife, Joyce, spotted a shark fin in the wave.

Paramedics took Adkins to Bert Fish Memorial Hospital in New Smyrna Beach, where surgeons had to close up a punctured artery in his foot. Bite marks were on his right foot and lower right ankle.

Wooden said this was the third shark bite off Volusia beaches this year, which is fewer than other summer seasons.

SOURCE: Orlando Sentinel, August 6, 1999, page D3



CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH SHARK LEAVES VISITOR WITH SCAR, TALE

A West Virginia man has a real fish tale to tell friends about his vacation in Southeast Volusia this summer, and a scar to prove it.

Charlie Adkins, 62, of Wayne, was playing in waist-deep water Thursday morning near his Bethune Beach condominium in the 6200 block of South Atlantic Avenue when a shark mistook his right heel for a snack.

"He was diving through the waves when he came up and yelled shark," said Adkins' wife, Joyce, who was swimming with him