

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 1999.09.05

DATE: Sunday September 5, 1999

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean near Fort Pierce Inlet State Park, St. Lucie County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Mike Sprague

DESCRIPTION: He is a 13-year-old male from Fort Myers.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Third Quarter, September 2, 1999

NARRATIVE: Mike Sprague was surfing with five other surfers. He had just jumped off his surfboard after riding a wave when he was bitten by a shark. "My whole foot was in the shark's mouth," he said. "It bit my foot and then spit it out." He got back on his board and turned around to paddle back to shore when the shark circled around and began pursuing him. "I was pretty much waiting for me to get off my board, said Sprague.



INJURY: The surfer's right foot was bitten.

TREATMENT: The surfer underwent reconstructive surgery. It was thought that he would not be able to surf for six weeks.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified. The shark was five to six feet in length.

SOURCE: Orlando Sentinel, September 8, 1999, page D3