



**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** [GSAF 1999.10.20](#)

**DATE:** Wednesday October 20, 1999

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Satellite Beach, Brevard County, Florida, USA.

**NAME:** David Hunt

**DESCRIPTION:** The surfer was wearing baggies (swim suit), and a silver and gold watch on the hand that was bitten by the shark.

### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** "It was a beautiful sunny day," said Hunt. At 11h55, KCOF Florida recorded partly cloudy skies and 7 mile visibility. The air temperature was 82.4°F, dew point 75.2°F, humidity 79%, sea level pressure 30.08 inches and wind direction was southeast at 8.1 mph.

**MOON PHASE:** Waxing Gibbous, 79% of the Moon was illuminated. Full moon, October 24, 1999.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The waves were four to five feet and glassy.

**ENVIRONMENT:** The surfer did not see any bait fish in the water.

**TIME:** 12h00

**NARRATIVE:** "I was surfing on my lunch break," said David Hunt. "I was surfing alone. I took a couple of waves and started to paddled back out. Then a nine-foot lemon shark swam partially under my board and grabbed my wrist and hand. It hit so hard that it pulled my arm out of its socket. It was trying to muscle his way under my surfboard. Its tail was thrashing in the air and I was teeter-tottering on his back. Then it tried to take me under. I ripped my hand out of its mouth so hard that I did a 360 in the water. Blood was everywhere. I caught a wave and stood up on my board. I was looking at my hand to see the damage. I tried to make a fist but couldn't. My knuckles were clicking together. The shark tore all the tendons in my hand."

**INJURY:** The surfer sustained multiple lacerations to his right hand and wrist.

**TREATMENT:** When asked how many stitches were needed, Hunt replied, "108". He added, "I had surgery three weeks after the attack. My tendons had to be reattached, but I have recovered full function of my hand."

**NOTE:** Asked if he still surfs, Hunt said, "Oh yeah, I went back in right after the stitches were removed. It hurt really bad, so I paddled back in." Asked why he thought the shark bit him, the surfer said, "Perhaps it was my watch, but I really think that I was just in the wrong place at the wrong time."

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** The incident involved a 2.7 metre [9'] lemon shark.

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** William Schauman, SharkSurvivor.com