

ACTIVITY: Body surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2000.10.06.a](#)

DATE: Friday October 6, 2000

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean opposite the Island Resort in the 1200 block of South Atlantic Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA. 29°N, 81°W

NAME: Taylor Holley

DESCRIPTION: Taylor is an 11-year-old male from Debarry, Florida. He was wearing light-colored swim shorts. He was not wearing a shirt or any jewelry.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, October 5, 2000

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was murky.

ENVIRONMENT: The incident took place amidst a large school of baitfish.

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: Three feet

TIME: 12h48

NARRATIVE: Taylor didn't want to go to the beach, but his father, Cy Holley, insisted. He was in the water, body surfing with his sister and father. "We had seen dolphins swimming and went out to watch them," said his father. "Then we saw a bunch of fish swimming along. It was like a city block of them and we were standing in the middle of them as they swam past." Suddenly, Taylor cried out. "I thought one of the fish had finned him," said his father, but Taylor knew what it was. He swam over to me and I pulled him to shore."

INJURY: The boy sustained a three- to four-inch horseshoe-shaped laceration near the heel of his right foot.

TREATMENT: The boy was transported by ambulance to Bert Fish Medical Center where an ER doctor repaired the wounds with 28 sutures.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified. The shark was thought to be about three feet in length.

SOURCES: Mark I. Johnson, Daytona Beach News Journal, October 7, 2000, page 1A; Sun Sentinel, October 8, 2000, Broward Metro Edition, page 6B; Bradenton Herald October 8, 2000

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Captain Scott Petersohn, Global Shark Accident File

