

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2001.04.11.d

DATE: Wednesday April 11, 2001

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean a quarter mile south of the inlet at New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.
29.0°N, 81.0°W

NAME: Elren Thresher

DESCRIPTION: The surfer is a 19-year-old male from New Smyrna Beach.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 87% of the moon's visible disk illuminated. Last Quarter, April 15, 2001.

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was murky with poor underwater visibility.

ENVIRONMENT: Shoals of baitfish were in the area.

TIME: Just after 12h00

NARRATIVE: He was surfing when something grabbed his foot.

INJURY: He suffered minor cuts to the heel.

FIRST AID: Beach Patrol Capt. David Williams said Thresher was treated at the scene, but the surfer refused transport to the hospital,

SPECIES INVOLVED: Possibly a juvenile blacktip or spinner shark.

NOTE: EVAC ambulance spokesman Mark O'Keefe reported that one of his units was also called to a reported bite in New Smyrna Beach over the weekend, but was canceled before it arrived on the scene. (Case GSAF 2001.04.08). "As we understand it, it was a very minor wound," O'Keefe said. "A young boy was surfing when he was bit by something. It came in to us as a shark bite. Emergency room officials at Bert Fish Hospital said they heard rumors of the bite, but treated no such injury. Beach Patrol officials could not confirm the incident, said Horster.

SOURCES: scubaradio.com; Orlando Sentinel, April 14, 2001, page A1

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Captain Scott Petersohn

