

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2001.04.12.a

DATE: Thursday April 12, 2001

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean near the south jetty of Ponce de Leon Inlet (2800 block of North Ocean Beach), New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

29.1°N, 81.0°W

NAME: Richard Lloyd

DESCRIPTION: The surfer is a 22-year-old male from Orange City, Florida.

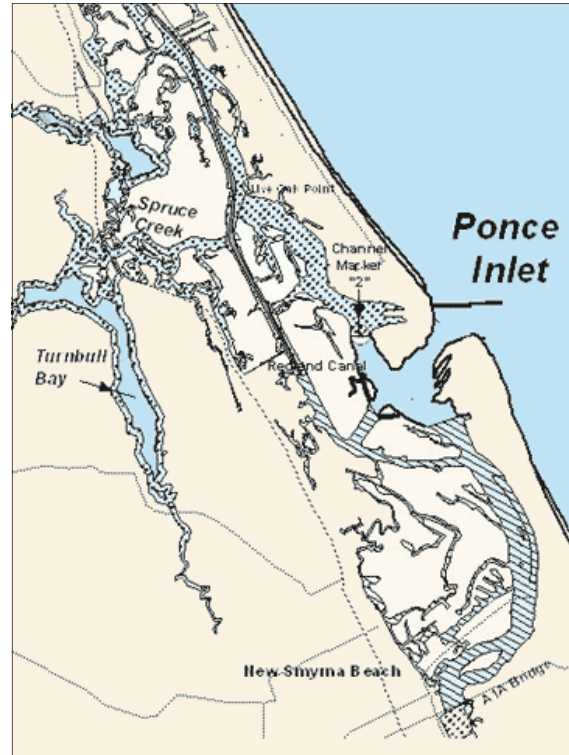
BACKGROUND

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: 11h53



NARRATIVE: "I had just jumped off my board and was underwater when I felt it grab my foot," "I never saw it." Lloyd made his way to shore without assistance.

INJURY: The surfer had a 3.5-inch gash across the dorsal surface of his foot, partly severing a tendon.

FIRST AID: Unknown, the surfer waved down a passing Beach Patrol officer and was transported to the hospital by ambulance.

TREATMENT: Lloyd was treated at Bert Fish Medical Center, and released the same day.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Possibly a juvenile blacktip or spinner shark.

SOURCE: Orlando Sentinel, April 14, 2001. page A.1

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Captain Scott Petersohn

Sharks attack 7 in a week

By JANELLE A. WEBER
The Associated Press

MIAMI — At least seven people were attacked by sharks along Florida's east coast this week as sharks hunted for fish along their northward migratory route.

Thousands of beachgoers were warned to stay out of the water after sharks were sighted and bites — none of them life-threatening — were reported.

A 16-year-old from Charleston, S.C., and a 12-year-old were bitten on the ankles Friday while surfing separately at New Smyrna Beach, said Capt. Rob Horster of the Volusia County Beach Patrol. Three other surfers and a wave-boarder were bitten by sharks on Wednesday and Thursday in the same area.

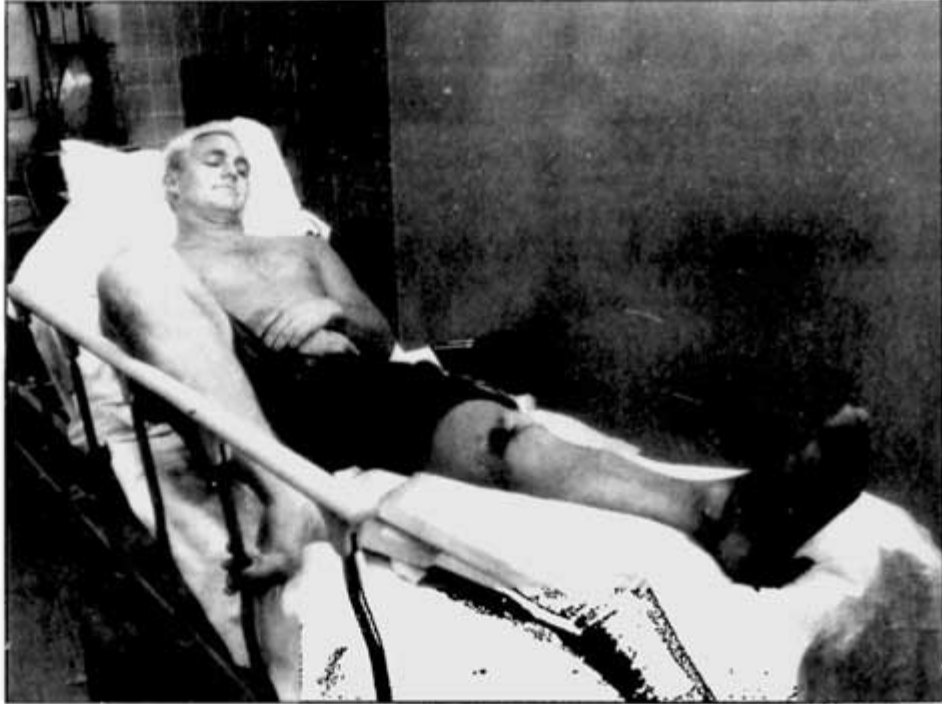
"These are not the kinds of attacks that were made famous in 'Jaws,'" said George Burgess, director of the International Shark Attack File in Gainesville.

"Sharks sometimes misinterpret the splashing of humans in the water as being normal prey items," Burgess said. "In most cases they realize very quickly that it's not a mullet and go."

Shark bites are common at New Smyrna Beach because the nearby Ponce de Leon Inlet is a site for fish spawning and schooling, Horster said.

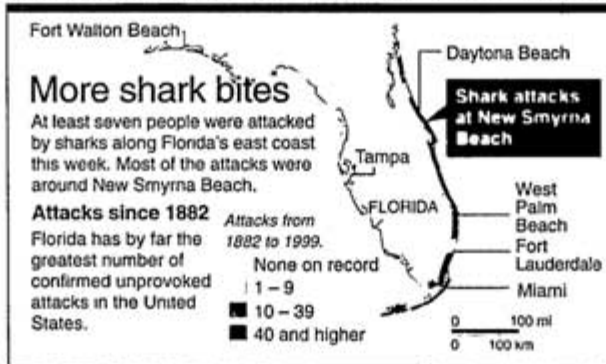
Farther south at Waveland Beach, a man received a deep bite to his right ankle and lower leg Thursday.

Most injuries were not severe, but 22-year-old Richard Lloyd's gash was deep enough to partly sever a tendon. The Orange City surfer, attacked Thursday off New Smyrna



AP/Mark I. Johnson

Richard Lloyd, 22, Orange City, Fla., looks at the gash on his left foot caused by an apparent shark bite Thursday in New Smyrna Beach, Fla. Lloyd was surfing near the south jetty when he jumped off his board and was bitten. He said he never saw the shark.



Source: Florida Museum of Natural History

AP

Beach, said doctors would need to operate to repair the damage.

Shark bites typically happen in

conditions of breaking surf, undertow, tidal currents and reduced visibility, Burgess said.

On the Net:

Shark Attack File:
<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/Sharks/ISAF/ISAF.htm>

The sharks responsible for the nips are generally small, between four and five feet, said Dr. Bob Hueter, director of the Center for Shark Research at the Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota. "That's their turf," he said. "You're going into their home."

According to the International Shark Attack File, there were 34 unprovoked shark attacks confirmed in Florida last year. Of the 79 unprovoked shark attacks confirmed worldwide, it lists 10 as fatal.

Daily News (Bowling Green, Kentucky), Sunday April 15, 2001, page 12-A