

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2001.08.18.a](#)

DATE: Saturday August 18, 2001

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean about a mile south of Ponce de Leon Inlet at New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA. 29°N, 81°W

NAME: Dylan Feindt

DESCRIPTION: The surfer is a 19-year-old male from New Smyrna Beach. He was wearing a yellow jersey, black shorts and a black watch.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waning Crescent, 1% of the moon was illuminated. New Moon, August 18, 2001.

SEA CONDITIONS: The recent heavy rains poured silt into the water and underwater visibility was very poor. Mean high tide was at 08h07, mean low tide was at 14h41

ENVIRONMENT: Several people were filleting fish illegally caught on the rocks and throwing the offal in the oceans.

Surfers in the event National Scholastic Surf Association (NSSA) event reported seeing 30 to 50 blacktip sharks up to six feet in length and eight-foot bull sharks, according to NSSA director Leon Johnston, and smaller sharks were seen within two to three feet of shore, causing contestants to run around or jump over them as they headed out to their heats. There were also large concentrations of baitfish at the inlet.

DEPTH OF WATER: Six feet

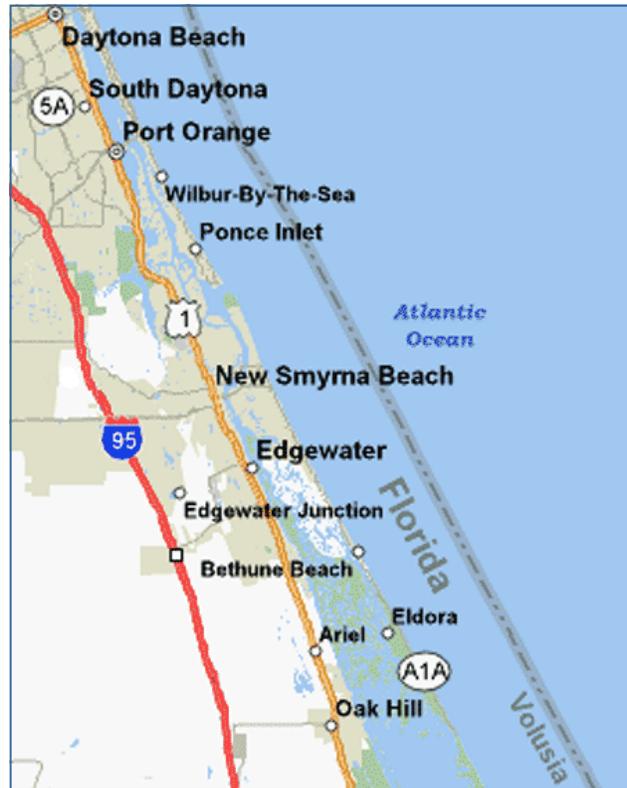
TIME: 11h30 (Press report says 10h00)

NARRATIVE: Dylan Feindt was competing in the NSSA's opening event of the season. He had just begun his 10 a.m. heat when he was bitten. He caught a wave, kicked out and fell into the water alongside his surfboard. While climbing back on his board, he felt the shark bite down. The fish shook the surfer, and then released him, and swam away. "I actually started paddling back out because my ankle wasn't bleeding yet. Then, about halfway out, the blood started gushing so I went back in."

INJURY: The ankle, dorsum and sole of the left foot were lacerated.

FIRST AID: The surfer went to the contest tent and was treated at the scene by an off-duty Beach Patrol officer.

TREATMENT: It was considered a minor injury and the surfer went to Bert Fish Medical



Center by personal vehicle. He was treated in the emergency room and released.

SPECIES INVOLVED: The incident was said to involve a blacktip shark, five to six feet in length.

SOURCES: Orlando Sentinel, August 20, 2001, page B1; Daytona Beach News Journal, August 20, 2001, page.1A

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Captain Scott Petersohn, Global Shark Accident File