

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: **GSFAF 2001.08.18.b**

DATE: Saturday August 18, 2001

LOCATION: New The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean about a mile south of Ponce de Leon Inlet (2600 block of North Ocean Beach) at New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA. 29°N, 81°W

NAME: Jaison Valentine

DESCRIPTION: The surfer is a 20-year-old male. He was wearing dark-colored shorts.

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.

ENVIRONMENT: Surfers in the event National Scholastic Surf Association (NSSA) event reported seeing 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: 10 feet

TIME: 12h05

NARRATIVE: Valentine was free surfing near the NSSA's contest area. He was paddling to shore when the shark made a single strike, biting his hand. "I knew to get the hell out of the water," he said. The surfer left the water immediately.

INJURY: There was a two-inch gash on the back of the surfer's left hand which tore tendons and ligaments.

FIRST AID: Volusia County Beach Patrol lifeguards provided first aid.

TREATMENT: The surfer was admitted to Bert Fish Medical Center in New Smyrna Beach and underwent surgery to repair his hand the same afternoon.

SPECIES INVOLVED: The shark was reported to be three feet in length. It was speculated that the incident involved a blacktip shark or a spinner shark.

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

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Captain Scott Petersohn

