

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** GSAF 2001.08.19.c

**DATE:** Sunday August 19, 2001

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean just south of the south jetty of Ponce de Leon Inlet, New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA. 29.1°N, 81°W

**NAME:** Robert Kurrek

**DESCRIPTION:** The surfer, a 32-year-old male is from New Smyrna Beach. He was wearing grey-colored swimming baggies.

**BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** New Moon, August 18, 2001

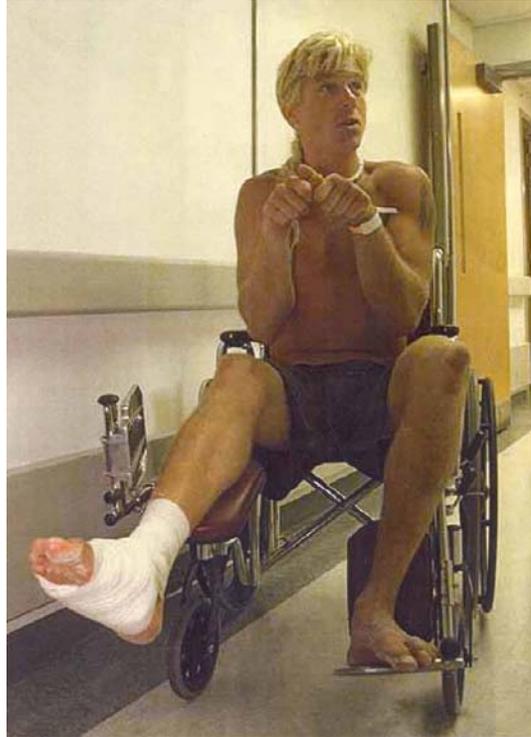
**SEA CONDITIONS:** The recent heavy rains poured silt into the water and underwater visibility was very poor.

**ENVIRONMENT:** There were large concentrations of baitfish at the south jetty and surf fishing opposite the incident site.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 50 yards

**DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE:** Six feet

**TIME:** 13h14



*Robert Kurrek*

**NARRATIVE:** Kurrek had been surfing near the south jetty for about two hours. He was headed to shore when he found himself in the midst of about a half-dozen sharks. "I looked right and saw four or five. I looked left and saw six or seven," he said. Two of the fish came racing toward him when one "jetted underneath me," bumping his surfboard. Then the shark turned around and grabbed Kurrek's right foot in its mouth and "yanked" it. The shark quickly released Kurrek and the surfer went immediately to shore. The Beach Patrol closed a mile of the beach south of the inlet for the rest of the day.

**INJURY:** There were three half-inch lacerations on the dorsum and sole of the surfer's right foot.

**FIRST AID:** Kurrek walked to a nearby lifeguard for treatment.

**TREATMENT:** He was treated at Bert Fish Medical Center in New Smyrna Beach and released the same afternoon.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Kurrek said he has seen several smaller sharks while surfing New Smyrna Beach waters over the past dozen years, but the sharks he saw on Sunday were much larger. He described them as four or five feet in length, "gray on the top and white on the bottom".

**SOURCES:** Orlando Sentinel, August 20, 2001, page B1; Daytona Beach News Journal, August 20, 2001, page1A

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Captain Scott Petersohn, Global Shark Accident File