

ACTIVITY: Boogie boarding

CASE: GSAF 2001.08.26

DATE: August 26, 2001

LOCATION: The incident took place in front of the lifeguard station near the Flagler Avenue beach ramp at New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

29°N, 81°W

NAME: Ben Gibbs

DESCRIPTION: He is an 18-year-old male from Casselberry.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, August 25, 2001

ENVIRONMENT: This incident took place south of the mile stretch of surf closed to swimmers and surfers all weekend because of a number of shark bites. Just minutes before this incident, Captain Dave Williams of the Volusia County Beach Patrol Williams flew overhead in the county's Air One helicopter in search of sharks, which have been passing through the area for more than a week. Williams said he also scanned the waters around 10h00 from the air and saw only one shark.

TIME: 16h00

NARRATIVE: Gibbs says he didn't see the shark until it had already bitten him.

INJURY: His right foot and upper thigh were bitten by the shark.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Gibbs was treated at the scene but decided to go to the hospital near his home and so his friends drove him to Florida Hospital Altamonte.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified

SOURCES: Miami Herald, August 26, 2001; S. Mussenden, Orlando Sentinel, August 26, 2002, page B1

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Captain Scott Petersohn, Global Shark Accident File

