

**ACTIVITY:** Wading

**CASE:** GSAF 2001.08.27

**DATE:** Monday August 27, 2001

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean near the 27th Avenue beach ramp (3700 block South Ocean Beach), New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.  
29°N, 81°W

**NAME:** William Goettel

**DESCRIPTION:** The swimmer is a 69-year-old white male. He was wearing tan swim trunks.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Waxing Gibbous, 67% of the moon's visible disk was illuminated. Full Moon, September 2, 2001.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The water was murky.

**ENVIRONMENT:** A one-mile stretch of beach south of Ponce Inlet has been closed since Thursday and will officially remain closed, at least until Tuesday, because of concerns the numbers of sharks swimming along the shoreline. While flyovers of the beach earlier in the day reported that there was no sign of any sharks in the area around 27th Avenue, and the Beach Patrol surveyed the waters throughout the day, they concluded the waters were not safe for swimming or surfing and, following this incident, all the beaches were closed.

**DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE:** Two to four feet

**TIME:** 16h20 [4:20 p.m.]

**NARRATIVE:** Goettel had left the water, but then he turned around and walked back in. Then he felt something grab his left heel, and then let go. He did not see the shark due to the very poor water visibility.

**INJURY:** His left heel was nipped. It was a minor injury.

**FIRST AID:** Goettel was treated by Beach Patrol officers and left the scene in his own vehicle. Goettel indicated that he had a medical background and would go home and bandage it himself or go to the hospital if he believed stitches were necessary.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Unknown.

**SOURCES:** CNN; Mark I. Johnson, Daytona Beach News Journal, August 28, 2001, page 1A

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

