

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** GSAF 2002.03.15.a

**DATE:** Friday March 15, 2002

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean, a quarter mile south of the jetty at New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA 29.0° N 81.0° W

**NAME:** Not identified

**DESCRIPTION:** The surfer is a 31-year-old male. He was wearing a black short-sleeved, short-legged springsuit-type wetsuit.

### BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** The sky was sunny, visibility was eight to nine miles, the air temperature was 82°F and there was a five-to 10-knot east-southeast breeze.

**MOON PHASE:** New Moon

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The water was greenish-brown and murky. The sea temperature was 69°F. The sea surface was semi-glassy and there were three- to four-foot waves.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Approximately 20 to 25 people were fishing off the jetty, and three people had fishing poles in the water directly opposite the incident site.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 300 feet

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Seven to eight feet

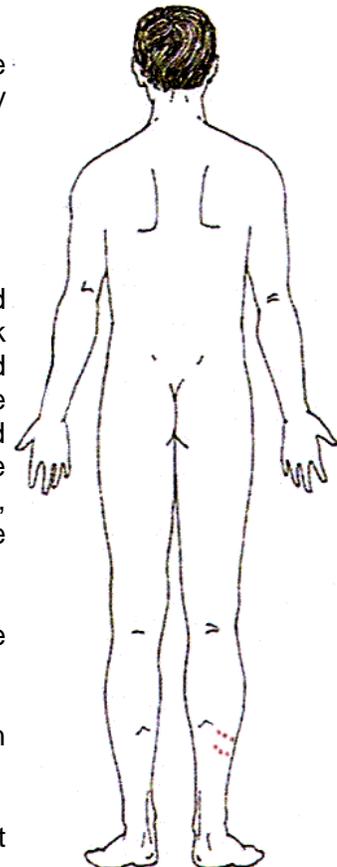
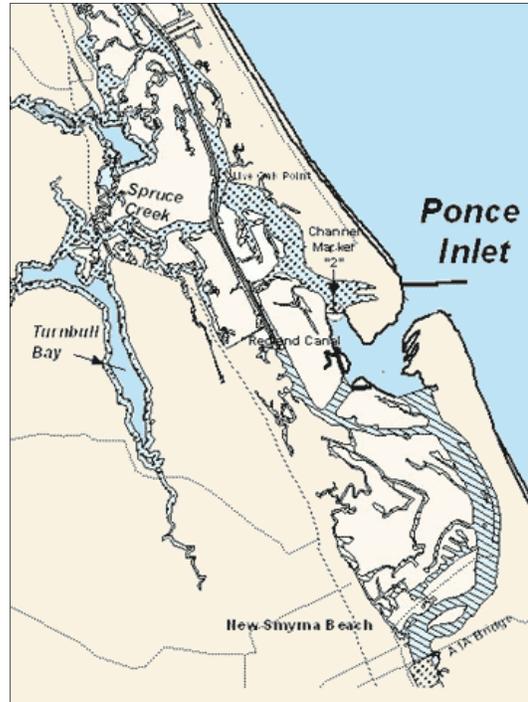
**TIME:** 10h55

**NARRATIVE:** There were about 60 to 70 surfers in the water, and approximately 10 other people were wading when the incident took place. A witness said the shark was spinning (“fins rolling over and over”) in the water when the surfer fell off his board and onto the shark. The shark bumped the surfer’s leg, causing the injury and severing his surfboard leash. Then the shark swam away. The surfer stated that he was bitten before in the same area in 1995, and remarked that the bite in 1995 felt like a clamp while this one felt like a bump.

**INJURY:** The surfer sustained seven to eight quarter-inch puncture wounds on his lower right leg.

**FIRST AID:** Lifeguards treated the man on the beach. It isn’t known if he received further medical care.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** According to the witness, the incident



involved a three- to four-foot spinner shark.

**SOURCE:** Orlando Sentinel, March 16, 2002, page C2

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

**NOTE:** The man and the shark simply collided; it was not a shark “attack”.