



ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2002.07.26](#)

DATE: Friday July 26, 2002

LOCATION: The incident took place just south of Springmaid Pier, Grand Strand, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

33.8°N, 78.7°W

NAME: T.J. Nimmons

DESCRIPTION: The surfer, a 13-year-old male, is a seventh-grader at Forestbrook Middle School in Horry County.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sky was clear and the air temperature was in the mid-80s.

MOON PHASE: Last Quarter, August 1, 2002

ENVIRONMENT: Myrtle Beach is located along South Carolina's northern coast, in Horry County. It is the center of the Grand Strand, 60 miles of beaches that stretches from the North Carolina border to Georgetown.

TIME: Evening

NARRATIVE: The surfer had just pushed off on a wave and didn't see the shark that bit him.

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INJURY: The surfer's foot was bitten. The bite narrowly missed his Achilles tendon.

TREATMENT: The boy's injury was treated at the South Strand Ambulatory Care Center. His wound was repaired with 35 stitches.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Dr. Jarratt Lark said the shark that bit T.J. was most likely a 1.2 m [4'] blacktip or sandbar shark, commonly found along the Grand Strand. He said the shark was probably drawn to the flash of white from the teen's heel.

NOTE: "We are making new rules," said T.J.'s mother, Cathy Nimmons. "The next time T.J. heads into the surf, it won't be near a pier or in the evening."

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Clay Creswell, GSAF.

