

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2002.08.11

DATE: Sunday August 11, 2002

LOCATION: The incident took place off Vero Beach, Indian River County, Florida, USA.

27.6°N, 80.4°W

NAME: Brad Milliken

DESCRIPTION: The surfer is a 15-year-old male from Vero Beach.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 15h39, Vero Beach recorded thunderstorms, rain, and visibility of five miles. The air temperature was 73.4°F [23°C], dew point 73.4°F [23°C], humidity 100%, sea level pressure 30.08 in [1018.5 hPa]m and wind direction was NE at 6.9 mph [11.1 km/h].

MOON PHASE: New Moon, August 8, 2002

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: Three feet

TIME: 15h30

NARRATIVE: Milliken had just ridden a wave inshore. When he stepped down in the water he felt something grip his ankle. "It felt like finger nails digging into my skin." Said Milliken. "I thought it was (my friend) pulling on my leg."

Lifeguards cleared the water for the rest of the day.

INJURY: There were several teeth marks on the dorsum of the surfer's right foot, and a long cut on his heel.

TREATMENT: Milliken was treated at Indian River Memorial Hospital and released. No stitches were needed but left the hospital on crutches, saying he expects to be surfing again in two weeks.

SPECIES INVOLVED: According to a witness, the incident involved a nurse shark about 1.5 metres [five feet] in length.

SOURCES: Miami Herald, August 12, 2002 edition; Stuart News / St. Lucie News, August 12, 2002; www.darter.ocps.net/classroom/klenk/shkpress.htm

