

ACTIVITY: Boogie boarding

CASE: GSAF 2002.09.09

DATE: Monday September 9, 2002

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Ponce Inlet, New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.
29.1°N, 81.0°W

NAME: Sean M. Erwin

DESCRIPTION: He is a 20-year-old male. He was wearing blue shorts.

BOARD: He was using a blue boogie board.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 8% of the moon's visible disk was illuminated. New Moon, September 7, 2002.

SEA CONDITIONS: The water temperature was 85°F, the wave height was four to five feet, and the sea was murky. Mean low tide was at 17h10.

ENVIRONMENT: There were many baitfish in the area. The boogie boarder noticed the water smelled like fish.

DISTANCE FROM MOUTH OF THE INLET: 300 to 400 yards

DEPTH OF WATER: Four to five feet

TIME: 15h55

NARRATIVE: Sean Erwin was amid a group of surfers when he was bitten. He did not see the shark.

INJURY: He sustained multiple lacerations above and below his right knee.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Lifeguards treated Erwin at the beach. Then he "took himself" to Bert Fish Medical Center in New Smyrna Beach. A hospital spokeswoman said he was being treated and was in stable condition Monday evening.

SPECIES INVOLVED: The shark was four to six feet in length. One witnesses thought it was a blacktip shark.

SOURCE: Orlando Sentinel, September 10, 2002 edition, page B3

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Captain Scott Petersohn, GSAF

