

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2002.10.05

DATE: Saturday October 5, 2002

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at New Smyrna Beach (2900 block North Ocean Beach), Volusia County, Florida, USA.

29°N, 81°W

NAME: Darren Harrity

DESCRIPTION: The surfer, a 14-year-old male, was 5'10" tall and weighed 125 lbs. He was wearing grey board shorts, a black rash guard, and a black leash attached to his ankle.

SURFBOARD: The surfer was using a six-foot Al Merrick white tri-fin board. The three fins were red.



BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sky was sunny, and the air temperature was about 90°F.

MOON PHASE; Waning Crescent, 1% of the moon's visible disk illuminated. New Moon, October 6, 2002.

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was brownish, murky and underwater visibility was very poor. The sea surface was choppy.

ENVIRONMENT: People were fishing off the jetty. There were many baitfish in the water, and the surfer observed them jumping from the water.

DISTANCE FROM ROCK JETTY: 200 metres

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 50 metres

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: 1.2 metres

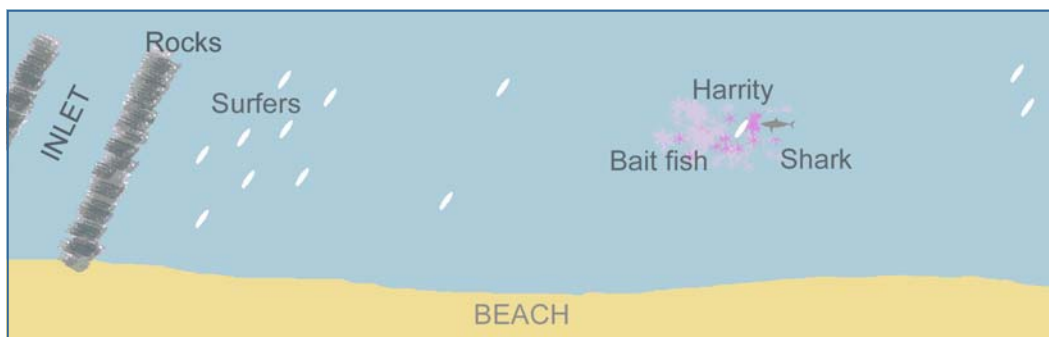
TIME: 12h00



NARRATIVE: Darren had been surfing for a time, but moved down the beach and had been in the water only four minutes. He was heading seawards when he paddled into a school of fish jumping from the surface. The shark came from his right, struck his right arm and knocked him off his board. He remounted his board and walked / swam back to the beach.

INJURY: Harrity's right hand was abraded and his finger was lacerated.

TREATMENT: The Beach Patrol cleaned the wound, and his mother drove him to Bert Fish Hospital. He arrived at the hospital about 20 minutes after the incident.



© Global Shark Accident File, 2002. All rights reserved. This report may not be abridged or reproduced without written permission of the Global Shark Accident File.

SOURCES: Interview with Darren Harrity; Ludmilla Lelis, Orlando Sentinel; Daytona Beach News Journal, September 22, 2003, p.1C

CASE INVESTIGATORS: Captain Scott Petersohn and Marie Levine, Global Shark Accident File.

