

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2004.03.28](#)

DATE: Sunday March 28, 2004

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean near Pelican Beach Park in Satellite Beach, Brevard County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Unknown

DESCRIPTION: The surfer is a male.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: Strong winds had been blowing for nearly a week, creating rip currents. On the afternoon of the incident a teen was rescued after being caught in a rip current.

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, March 28, 2004

ENVIRONMENT: There was a great deal of activity during the week because of spring break at local schools and college students in town. "More people mean more chances for someone to get hurt, whether in a dangerous current or in an encounter with sea life," said Wyatt Werneth, Brevard lifeguard division chief. "There are people as far as you can see, nothing but umbrellas, coolers and tents." Although there were no outright rescues – in which lifeguards had to pull swimmers from the water – there were several assists to swimmers caught in rip currents. It was thought that the strong winds were driving sea creatures closer to shore. Seventeen-year-old Millon Valdez and his friends said they saw sharks beneath the strong waves.

TIME: 15h00

NARRATIVE: A surfer told fellow surfers he had been bitten on the heel by a shark. Valdez witnessed the incident and said, "I just grabbed him and tried to help him up the beach." Officials, who arrived after the man left the beach, could not confirm a shark bite.

INJURY: The surfer was bitten on the heel by the shark. "He was just in shock and his heel looked like a T-bone steak," said Valdez.

TREATMENT: Unknown

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified

SOURCE: J.D. Gallop, Florida Today

