

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** GSAF 2006.09.11

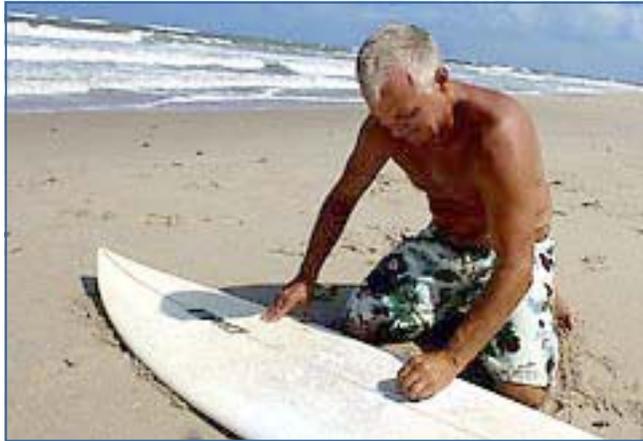
**DATE:** Monday September 11, 2006

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at a New Smyrna Beach County Park, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

**NAME:** Dennis Macy

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 52-year-old male from Fort Pierce. He has been surfing for 39 years.

**SURFBOARD:** He was using a white surfboard.



Jason Nuttall, TCPalm.com

*Dennis Macy prepares to go surfing at Fort Pierce Inlet State Park on Tuesday, one day after his encounter with a shark.*

### BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** There were scattered clouds and air temperatures ranged throughout the day from 80.6°F to 84.2°F.

**MOON PHASE:** Waning Gibbous, 81% of the moon's visible disk was illuminated. New Moon, September 22, 2006.

**ENVIRONMENT:** There were large schools of baitfish in the immediate area of the incident. "When those northeasterlies blow in, then the bait fish come and sharks follow them in to feed, said Macy. "[The sharks] are not after you, they just want the food, but you might get in the way,"



Jason Nuttall, TCPalm.com

*Abrasions on Dennis Macy's torso from the skin of the shark.*

**NARRATIVE:** While paddling out, Dennis Macy felt a burning sensation on his side after he saw what he thought was a five-foot shark leap out from the water beside his board. At first, he assumed the encounter was just a sideswipe. "I thought the shark just roughed up my skin after he slammed me. I could feel my skin kind of pricked up, but I knew I wasn't bleeding really bad, so I kept on surfing," he recalled.

Macy continued to surf for another 20 minutes. "I felt lightning wouldn't strike twice," said the surfer. "Maybe I've got a little reckless abandon about me."

**INJURY:** Minor injury. The lower left side of surfer's torso was scratched. "If [the shark] would have bit me, it would have been bad news. This is the best possible *shark-hit* story."

**SOURCES:** Lisa Riddle, [lisa.riddle@scripps.com](mailto:lisa.riddle@scripps.com), TCPalm.com, [http://www.tcpalm.com/tcp/local\\_news/article/0,2545,TCP\\_16736\\_4987769,00.html](http://www.tcpalm.com/tcp/local_news/article/0,2545,TCP_16736_4987769,00.html) Florida Sun-Sentinel, September 12, 2006

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Captain Scott Petersohn, Volusia County Beach Patrol.