

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2007.03.31.b](#)

DATE: Saturday March 31, 2007

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Normandy Beach, near the 8500 block of South Ocean Drive on Hutchinson Island, St. Lucie County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Larry Olson

DESCRIPTION: He is a 37-year-old male from Port St. Lucie.



Paul J. Milette / The Post

Larry Olson

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The air temperature was 72°F [22.2°C], dew point 56°F [13°C], humidity 59%, sea level pressure 30.08 inches [1018.5 hPa], and there was no precipitation.

MOON PHASE: Waxing Gibbous, 97% of the moon's visible disk was illuminated.

SEA CONDITIONS: There were four-foot swells and the water temperature was 77°F [25°C].

ENVIRONMENT: Before paddling out, the surfer noticed schools of bait fish and diving pelicans. Diving sea birds indicate the presence of baitfish. Baitfish leap from the water when predators, such as sharks, are attacking the school from below. also are attracted to troughs between sandbars and certain inlets and are often seen as they migrate along Florida's east coast in the spring and fall.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 10 feet

TIME: 14h21

NARRATIVE: No details.

INJURY: The surfer sustained a three- to four-inch laceration to his right ankle.

TREATMENT: The surfer was transported to Martin Memorial Medical Center in Stuart, where he underwent a three-hour surgical repair.

SPECIES: The surfer estimates the shark was between 3 and 5 feet [in length] and weighed about 25 pounds. He thinks it might have been a blacktip shark.

SOURCES: Palm Beach Post and the Sun Sentinel, April 3, 2007 editions