

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2007.08.26

DATE: Sunday August 26, 2007

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at the south side of Ponce Inlet, New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

29.1°N, 81°W

NAME: Joseph "Jody" Coursey

DESCRIPTION: He is a 54-year-old male.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 13h47, New Smyrna Beach recorded scattered clouds and visibility of seven miles [11.3 km]. The air temperature was 86°F [30°C], dew point 73.4°F [23°C], humidity 66%, sea level pressure 30.01 inches [1016.1 hPa], and wind direction was ENE at 9.2 mph [14.8 km/h].

MOON PHASE: Waxing Gibbous, 91% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated. Full Moon, August 28, 2007.

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea was murky.

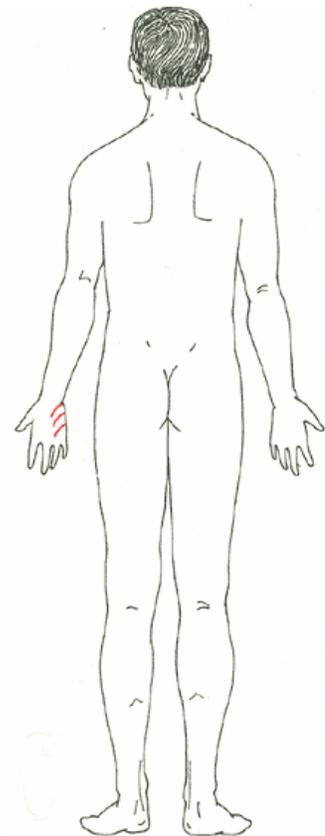
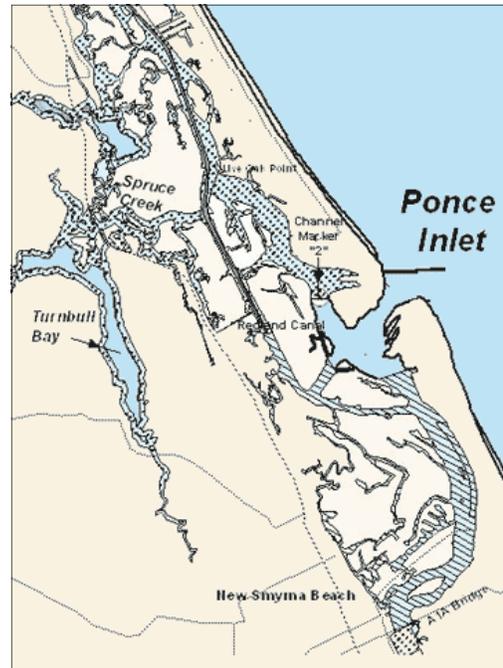
ENVIRONMENT: There were a lot of baitfish in the water, and the sharks feeding upon them were one to three feet in length.

TIME: 14h00

NARRATIVE: He had been surfing for several hours when he spied a mackerel flip out of the water by his left side. "I knew something was chasing it," he said. "As my left hand cleared my left hip, the shark hit my hand. From the force of him chasing that mackerel, he pushed my hand toward my face. Then he released me," Coursey said. Sarah Coursey was with her father in the water when he was bitten. "He said it didn't hurt. It happened so quickly. He just looked down and there was a shark on his hand," said Sarah. "You're playing the odds, and eventually something is going to happen, though you hope it doesn't happen," Coursey said. "I just got in the middle of a shark and its prey. It was my fault for being there at the wrong time."

INJURY: The surfer sustained lacerations to the dorsal and palmar surfaces of his left hand.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: According to Sarah, her father bandaged his own hand and flagged down help. Tendons were repaired in a 1.5-hour procedure at Halifax Medical Center in Daytona Beach.



SPECIES: Not identified. It was thought the shark was three to four feet in length.

SOURCES: WFTV.com9;
<http://www.wftv.com/news/13979888/detail.html>;
Ludmilla Lelis, Orlando Sentinel, September 2, 2007

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Captain Scott Petersohn