

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2008.03.28.b](#)

DATE: March 28, 2008

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

29.1°N, 81°W

NAME: Mark Lemelin

DESCRIPTION: He is a 52-year-old male. He was wearing a brown long-sleeved rash guard and black surfing shorts. He is 5'11" tall and weighs 160 pounds.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 18h53, New Smyrna Beach recorded a clear sky and visibility of 10 miles [16.1 km]. The air temperature was 75°F [23.9°C], dew point 53.1°F [11.7°C], humidity 49%, sea level pressure 30.08 in ches [1018.6 hPa] and wind direction was East (onshore) at eight to 10 mph.

MOON PHASE: March 29, 2008, Last Quarter.

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea surface temperature was 68°F [20°C], waves were two-feet and choppy, and there was a south current. The water was cloudy due to sand suspended in the water. The incident occurred at or near mean low tide.

ENVIRONMENT: Fish were being hooked nearby.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 25 yards

DEPTH OF WATER: Six to seven feet, but the surfer was in the surf zone on a sandbar about four feet deep when he was bitten.

TIME: 18h50

NARRATIVE: Approximately two people were within 10 feet of Mark Lemelin when the accident took place. Another 10 were within 10 to 50 feet of him and about 30 others were spread over 100-yard area. The surfer had been in the water for several hours. He rode a wave inshore and when the ride ended he jumped off his board and landed on the shark. The shark bit down on his foot, shook it a few times and released him. The shark made a single strike and was not seen again. The surfer returned to shore without assistance.

INJURY: The surfer's left foot was bitten. He sustained one-centimeter lacerations to the dorsal surface and sole of the foot.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: He was treated by EMS and may have sought further care for his injury at Bert Fish Medical Center in New Smyrna Beach.

SPECIES: Not identified, but the shark's total length was four to five feet (estimated).

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Captain Scott Petersohn, Global Shark Accident File

NOTE: This was a provoked incident.

