



**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** [GSAF 2008.06.07](#)

**DATE:** Saturday June 7, 2008

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Cocoa Beach, Brevard County, Florida, USA.

*28.3°N, 80.6°W*

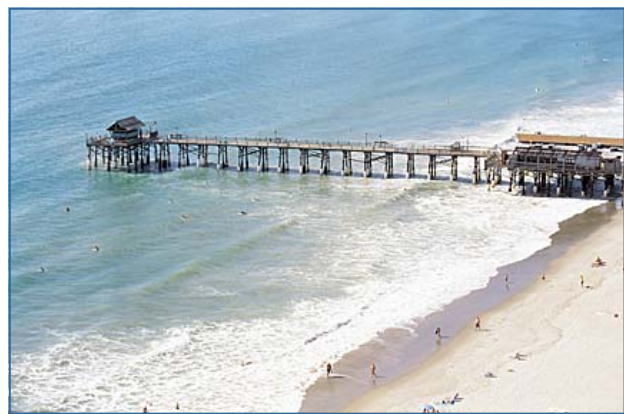
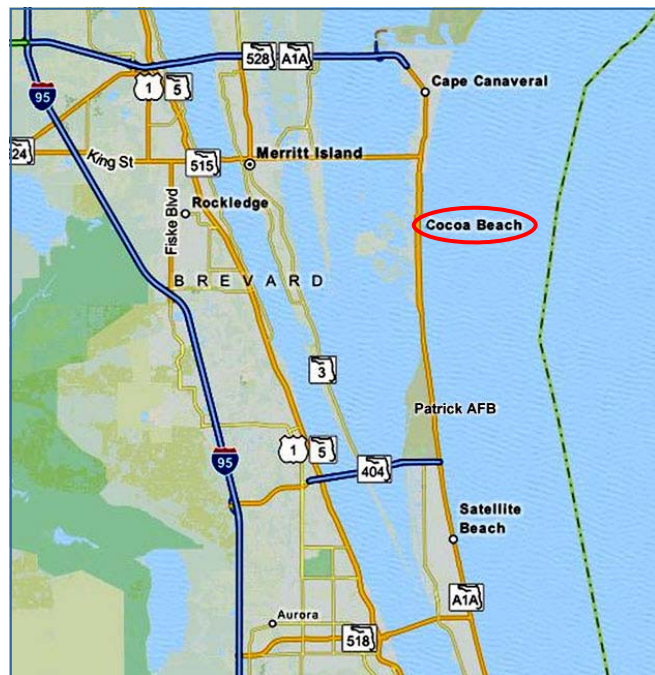
**NAME:** John Vasbinder

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 40-year-old male, the district vice president of Central Florida YMCA.

**NARRATIVE:** He was lying on his surfboard, paddling out to catch another wave, when his hand was bitten. "I thought I hit a dolphin or a turtle or something until I looked at my hand," Vasbinder said. The shark apparently came from behind. "I never saw it coming," Vasbinder said. "In 40 years of surfing, this is my first scratch."

**INJURY:** Vasbinder's right hand was bitten. "The skin on my palm was peeled back in three places and a couple of my finger tips were bleeding," he said. Vasbinder said he is left-handed, so, he said, "It worked out great."

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** His wife, who was sitting on the beach, took him to a



doctor. Vasbinder said it didn't hurt until he got to the hospital and the doctor put the anti-infection salve on his hand. Then, it burned, he said. Some 45 stitches were used to repair the injury. Recovery was uneventful and the sutures were removed on June 18, 2008.

**SPECIES:** Based on the location of the incident, it was speculated that a bull shark was involved.

**SOURCE:** TC Palm, June 20, 2008, <http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2008/jun/20/40-year-old-surfer-gets-45-stitches-shark-bite/>