



ACTIVITY: Surfing / Standing, holding surfboard at his side

CASE: [GSAF 2008.07.23](#)

DATE: Wednesday July 23, 2008

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean a quarter-mile south of the South Jetty at Ponce Inlet (2700 block), New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Troy E. Zettle

DESCRIPTION: He is a 15-year-old male, 5'6" tall and weighs 120 pounds. He is a student at a New Smyrna Beach High School. He was wearing brown board shorts, and a black surfboard leash. He was not wearing any jewelry.

SURFBOARD: White fiberglass surfboard.



Troy Zettle

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The air temperature was 93°F, dew point 76°F [24.4°C], humidity 75%, sea level pressure 30.03 inches [1016.8 hPa], and wind direction was East at 1 mph [1.6 km/h].

MOON PHASE: Last Quarter, July 25, 2008

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was calm. glassy and clear with two- to three-foot swells. The sea surface temperature was 77°F, and the tide was outgoing.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 50 yards

DEPTH OF WATER: Three to four feet

TIME: 14h30

NARRATIVE: About 15 people were within 10 to 50 feet of Troy when the accident took place. Troy rode a wave inshore and when he landed on the sand, he stepped on the shark. The shark whipped around, bit Troy's foot, and then swam away.

The area where Troy was bitten is where 90 percent of Volusia's shark bites occur and the teen is well aware of the sharks in the area, said Captain Scott Petersohn of the Volusia County Beach Patrol. "He's a frequent flyer at the inlet; [the bite] was not a big shock to him."

INJURY: The patient sustained several one-inch lacerations to the dorsal surface and sole of his left foot and toes. It was not a life- or limb-threatening injury, according to Captain Petersohn, but he said the youngster would need stitches and he may have some damage to a tendon.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: The boy was treated at by rescue workers and friends or relatives drove him to Bert Fish Medical Center in New Smyrna Beach where his injuries were repaired with about 30 stitches.

NOTE: This was a provoked incident; the shark bit the surfer after he stepped on the shark. While it was the 14th shark bite of the year in Volusia County, it was only the second that has been classified as a "provoked" bite.

SOURCE: First Coast News, <http://www.firstcoastnews.com/news/florida/news-article.aspx?storyid=114617&catid=4>

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Captain Scott Petersohn, Global Shark Accident File