



**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** [GSAF 2008.07.25.b](#)

**DATE:** Friday July 25, 2008

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

**NAME:** Ethan Fulton

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 17-year-old male from Mims, a graduate of Astronaut High School in Titusville.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** At 08h50, New Smyrna Beach recorded clear skies and visibility of 10 miles [16.1 km]. The air temperature was 82.4°F [28°C], dew point 73.4°F [23°C], humidity 74%, sea level pressure 30.13 inches [1020.2 hPa], and wind direction was SSW at 4.6 mph [7.4 km/h].

At 09h47, New Smyrna Beach recorded clear skies and visibility of 10 miles [16.1 km]. The air temperature was 86°F [30°C], dew point 77°F, humidity 74%, sea level pressure 30.13 inches and wind direction was SSW at 3.5 mph

**MOON PHASE:** Last Quarter, 39% of the Moon is illuminated.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Shark bites right now are not really surprising because of recent heavy rains, ocean water is murky and there are a lot of bait fish along the entire coastline of the county. Beach Patrol reported that there is a large run of bait fish in the water. Large schools of the fish are moving along the coast, as they often do in the mid-summer months, and sharks feeding on the schools of fish.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The sea surface temperature was 78°F, the current was heading north, and the waves were one to two-metres and semi-glassy. Mean low tide at SunGlow Pier in Daytona Beach Shores occurred at 08h31, tide in New Smyrna Beach varies by minutes.

**TIME:** Shortly after 09h00

**NARRATIVE:** Ethan Fulton and his friend, Jeremy Mackey, had been surfing near the jetty where the surfing conditions are ideal, but where there are also a number of bait fish. As they were coming ashore, Fulton stepped off his board and felt something bite his right ankle. "He was just yelling man, He's just, like, 'I got bit by a shark. I got bit by a shark,' real loud. I just swam in. I was, like, 'Let's go,'" Mackey said.

**INJURY:** Right foot bitten.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** Fulton's friends tried taking him to the hospital in a private vehicle, but when Fulton began feeling faint, they pulled over and called for an ambulance. EVAC ambulance paramedics met the teen at Sapphire Road and North Peninsula Avenue. Fulton was treated at the scene and then taken to Bert Fish Medical Center in New Smyrna Beach where he underwent 3.5 hours of surgery.

**SPECIES:** Not identified

**SOURCES:** Daytona Beach News-Journal, <http://www.news-journalonline.com/newsjournalonline/breakingnews/shark072508.htm>; et. al

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Captain Scott Petersohn, Global Shark Accident File