

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2008.09.00

DATE: September 2008

LOCATION: The accident took place in the Atlantic Ocean off Hutchinson Island, Martin County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Daryl Zbar

DESCRIPTION: He is a 19-year-old male from Jupiter, Florida. He was wearing a wetsuit.



Daryl Zbar

BACKGROUND

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was “a bit murky”

ENVIRONMENT: There were “lots of baitfish running”

TIME: Morning

NARRATIVE: It was a Monday morning and Daryl Zbar was on his surfboard waiting for the right wave. “I got to the outside and as soon as I plopped down on my stomach and dug my right hand in to paddle, it hit me,” said Zbar. “The thing I remember most is this like [vibrating noise] and I think that was his tail flipping back and forth as he was shaking his head. It grabbed me right here [on the hand] and shredded it. I knew right away it was shark on my hand and when I pulled my hand up, I saw him he was only about that big and he let go and swam away.”

When Daryl lifted his hand from the water his thumb was dangling. He caught the next wave into the beach and a fisherman rushed him to the hospital.

INJURY: Daryl’s right hand was bitten by the shark. “It was pretty severe,” said Dr. David Rankin, the surgeon on duty that day. “I looked at the thumb under a live X-ray. It was actually almost completely amputated and detached at the joint.”



TREATMENT: Rankin did everything he could to stitch Daryl up, but Daryl needed hyperbaric oxygen therapy at St. Mary’s Hospital to heal the injury and avoid amputation. “The increase oxygen levels in the blood act almost like an antibiotic. They allow white blood cells in a regular immune system to function better and more appropriately,” said Rankin.

SPECIES: Not identified

SOURCES: WPTV, January 2009, <http://www.wptv.com/news/local/story/Hyperbaric-chamber-saves-shark-attack-victims-hand/gmki9IRbF0eknWeznaif8Q.csp>

Shark Attack: Reconstructive Hand Surgery by Dr. David Rankin, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ny9a-wzkq9Q>

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