

ACTIVITY: Surfing

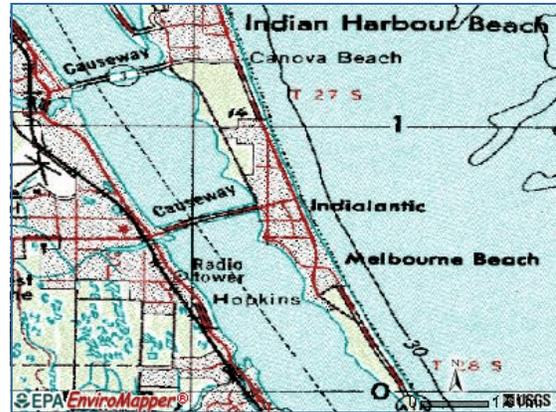
CASE: GSAF 2012.04.19.b

DATE: Thursday April 19, 2012

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

NAME: Justin Ellingham

DESCRIPTION: He is a 28-year-old male from Melbourne Beach, and a full-time Ocean Engineering student at Florida Institute of Technology, paying his way through school on his own. Justin recently won the NSSA Collegiate East Coast Surfing Championships on behalf of the Florida Tech surf team.



BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 19h53, Melbourne recorded overcast skies and visibility of 10 miles. The air temperature was 72°F, dew point 69.1°F, humidity 91%, sea level pressure 29.91 inches and wind direction was East at 6.9 mph.

MOON PHASE: Waning Crescent, 2% of the Moon was illuminated. New Moon, April 21, 2012.

SEA CONDITIONS: Waves were two to three feet in height.

ENVIRONMENT: Indialantic is situated on the barrier island that separates the Indian River Lagoon from the Atlantic Ocean. The island stretches south from Cape Canaveral to the Sebastian Inlet, a distance of 35 miles (56 km). The Melbourne Causeway connects Indialantic to Melbourne across the Indian River Lagoon.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 50 feet

TIME: 19h00 (Sunset was at 19h50)

NARRATIVE: Justin was surfing across the street from his home. He was paddling out when a shark grabbed his hand. As he pulled his hand free, he saw the shark swimming away.

INJURY: Lacerations to hand. According to the paramedics, his injuries were consistent with a shark bite.

TREATMENT: After returning to shore, the surfer and a friend attempted to drive to the hospital in a private vehicle before pulling over near the intersection of Fifth Avenue and South Miramar Avenue in Indialantic and calling 911. He was treated for injuries consistent with a bite at the scene by paramedics from Indialantic Fire Department and Brevard County Fire Rescue before being transported via ambulance to Holmes Regional Medical Center for further medical evaluation.

SPECIES: According to the surfer, the shark was about five feet in length.

SOURCE: My Fox Orlando, April 19, 2012, http://www.myfoxorlando.com/dpp/news/brevard_news/041912-melbourne-beach-man-bitten-by-shark#ixzz1sY1gOf5k