

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** GSAF 2015.05.20

**DATE:** Wednesday May 20, 2015

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

**NAME:** Matthew Zaccaria

**DESCRIPTION:** He is an 18-year-old male, and has been surfing for four years.

### BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** At 10h47, KEVB reported clear skies and 10-mile visibility. The air temperature was 86°F (heat index 91.8°F), dew point 71.6°F, humidity 62%, sea level pressure 30.01 inches and wind direction was West at 5.8 mph.

**MOON PHASE:** Waxing Crescent, 8% of the Moon was illuminated.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Bait fish started coming into shore with the tide, there was fishing activity on the jetty, and the area just south of the jetty is a shark nursery area.

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Waist-deep

**TIME:** 10h30



*Matthew Zaccaria*

**NARRATIVE:** Matthew Zaccaria was surfing with other longtime surfers who know the area very well. He said was just about to wrap up his session, and had just kicked off his board when the shark nipped him in the foot. He said he stepped on the shark's head and then felt the bite. He said he knew what happened almost immediately. "I like jerked my leg back as fast as I could and just jumped on my board and started paddling as fast as I could towards the beach," he said. "We're surfing their ocean, so that's the way it goes, I guess," he said.

**INJURY:** Two or three puncture wounds to the dorsum of the left foot.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** The injury was minor. The surfer was driven to Bert Fish Medical Center for treatment. The injury did not need stitches.

**SPECIES:** Not identified, but according to the surfer the shark was about five feet in length.

**SOURCES:** WFTV.com, May 20, 2015

<http://www.wftv.com/news/news/local/shark-bites-surfer-new-smyrna-beach/nmKsP/>

Click Orlando, May 20, 2015

<http://www.clickorlando.com/news/teen-bitten-by-shark-at-new-smyrna-beach/33124764>

Daytona Beach News Journal, May 20, 2015

<http://www.news-journalonline.com/article/20150520/NEWS/150529965?Title=Shark-nips-surfer-at-New-Smyrna-in-1st-bite-of-year>

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