

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** [GSAF 2015.10.04](#)

**DATE:** Sunday October 4, 2015

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean off Beachway and North Atlantic Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

*29°03'07.49"N, 80°54'03.37"W*

**NAME:** Phillip Tarasovic

**DESCRIPTION:** A 14-year-old male from Vero Beach.



## BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** At 08h47, KEVB (the airport nearest New Smyrna Beach) recorded partly cloudy skies and 10-mile visibility. The air temperature was 64.4°F, dew point 62.6°F, humidity 94%, sea level pressure 29.69 inches, and wind direction was WSW at 5.8 mph. There were severe thunderstorms in the area by late afternoon\*.

**MOON PHASE:** Waning Gibbous, 52% of the Moon was illuminated. Last Quarter, October 4, 2015.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The sea was murky.

**ENVIRONMENT:** New Smyrna Beach is about 15 miles south of Daytona Beach. The area where the incident took place is popular for surfers and juvenile sharks. "This area, it's kind of a common area for these small sharks," said Volusia County Beach Safety Captain Aaron Jenkins. "There's a lot of bait fish ... that kind of draws those sharks in. This area, it's kind of a common area for these small sharks. The sharks, they can't differentiate between someone's hand and some kind of small fish."

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 100 yards

**TIME:** Just before 08h30

**NARRATIVE:** Phillip Tarasovic was surfing with four friends and was paddling out when a shark made a single bite to his left hand. "Right when it bit I couldn't even feel it, he said. "It felt like someone was grabbing my hand." The boy punched the shark on its snout and it

swam away. Then he turned around and paddled to shore.

**INJURY:** Two large gashes to both sides of the left hand, and below the fingers on the knuckles. "I didn't even feel it until I was back on the beach," said Tarasovic.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** A bystander wrapped his shirt around the teen's hand and several people called police. Beach safety officers were flagged down and they treated him on scene. Then paramedics transported him to Halifax Medical Center in Daytona Beach where the injuries were repaired in a four-hour surgical procedure.

**SPECIES:** A four- or five-foot-long blacktip shark.

**SOURCES:** CNN, October 4, 2015

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/10/04/us/florida-shark-attack/index.html>

WFTV, October 4, 2015

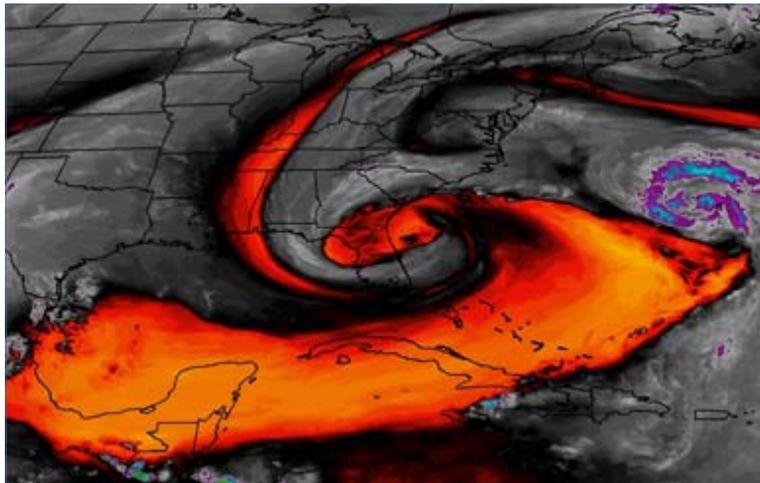
<http://www.wftv.com/news/news/local/teen-surfer-bitten-shark-new-smyrna-beach/nntbG/>

Channel 9 Eyewitness News, October 4, 2015

<http://www.wflx.com/story/30185631/graphic-image-teen-punches-shark-after-being-bitten-on-the-hand>

CBS12, October 5, 2015

[http://www.cbs12.com/news/top-stories/stories/vid\\_29862.shtml](http://www.cbs12.com/news/top-stories/stories/vid_29862.shtml)



*\*A remarkable combination of a deep cutoff low aloft, an old front and a new one developing with a non-tropical surface low, a potent low-level jet, very strong ridging aloft and surface high pressure to the north, and extra moisture/fetch contributed by Hurricane Joaquin resulted in an extraordinary convective band, with extreme rainfall and disastrous flooding in the southeastern United States.*