

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2016.12.27](#)

DATE: Tuesday December 27, 2016

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Avalon State Park Beach, North Hutchinson Island, St Lucie County, Florida, USA.

NAME: Zack Davis

DESCRIPTION: A 16-year-old male from Fort Pierce. He was wearing a Christmas present: A SharkBanz, a magnetic field shark-repelling band designed to reduce unprovoked investigatory bites by sharks of the ankles, calves, and feet — the most common areas of the body bitten by sharks.



Zack Davis

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 16h53, Vero Beach recorded scattered clouds and 10-mile visibility. The air temperature was 75°F, dew point 68°F, humidity 79%, sea level pressure 30.17 inches, and wind direction was SE at 9.2 mph.

MOON PHASE: Waning Crescent, 2% of the Moon is Illuminated. New Moon, December 29, 2016.

ENVIRONMENT: No baitfish were observed.

TIME: 17h00

NARRATIVE: Zack Davis was surfing with his twin brother, Zane, and another friend, and wanted to catch one more wave. "I was on a wave and one part of the wave closed out and like that it took me underwater. I felt it because my hand was on the sand and I was getting turned by the wave and I felt [the shark] grab on like two to three seconds and I came up out the water and was like 'I just got bit,'" Davis said. "I know I didn't land on the shark, because I would have felt that, but maybe I landed close to it and scared it. I just got out of the water as quickly as possible because I didn't want to get hit again," he said.



SharkBanz

FIRST AID: "It was shocking. It wasn't really painful. Honestly I wasn't really in pain I was just like 'oh my gosh I need to do something with this quick', so I just took my leash from my board and wrapped it around my arm because I didn't want to lose any blood," said Davis. Then he ran to his nearby home to get help from his mom. "I just said like, before I show you this, don't freak out or anything but I got bit by a shark," Davis told his mother.

INJURY: An arc of deep lacerations to right forearm.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Paramedics were summoned and Davis was transported by ambulance to Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute in Fort Pierce. Sherry Davis said doctors stitched up the wound Tuesday and released him on Wednesday. It took 42 to 44 stitches to repair the injury.

SPECIES: Thought to involve a blacktip shark about five feet in length. "If the surfer did land

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on top of the shark or very close to it, the shark would have likely acted defensively to this. While accidental and certainly unlucky, this is essentially a provoked attack from the shark's perspective. If the animal was cornered relative to the shore, the surfer's body, and physical contact occurred near the shark's head, the shark acted as expected. In a provoked attack situation, shark repellents are no longer effective," said scientist Dr. Eric Stroud.

SOURCES: Lamaur Stancil, TC Palm, December 28, 2016
<http://www.tcpalm.com/story/news/local/st-lucie-county/2016/12/28/teen-shark-bite/95911746/>

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<http://www.nbc-2.com/story/34149389/florida-teen-survives-shark-attack>

CBS 12, December 29, 2016

<http://cbs12.com/news/local/sharkbanz-investigates-local-teens-rare-attack-wearing-shark-repelling-band>

Hannah Al-othman, Daily Mail, December 29, 2016

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4073616/Teenager-wearing-shark-repelling-wristband-gets-bitten-shark-surfing-coast-Florida.html>