

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 1993.09.16.a

DATE: Thursday September 16, 1993

LOCATION: The attack took place in the Pacific Ocean at El Cocal, 25 miles south of San Salvador, El Salvador.

13°22'60N, 89°2'60W

NAME: Oscar Mauricio Guzman Castaneda

DESCRIPTION: He was a 17-year-old male.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, September 15, 1993

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea temperature at Cocal averages 82°F and it has a right point.

ENVIRONMENT: El Salvador surfing is roughly divided into two surfing zones: 1) The La Libertad area in the Northwest which encompasses about a dozen different breaks of high quality starting at the coastal town of La Libertad (a 30-minute drive from the airport) and extending for about an hour's drive northward along a mountainous and scenic coast. Surf spots in the La Libertad area include: Punta Roca (at the city of La Libertad), Conchalio, Cocal, Bocana, Zunzal, Palmarcito, Zonte, KM 59 and KM 61.

2) The other area, known as the Wild East, lies about three hours drive south and eastward down the coast.

NARRATIVE: No details.

INJURY: Fatal. "A coroner said the youth had been bitten six or seven times on his arms and legs, but had died from drowning."



El Cocal

One Salvadoran surfer dies after sharks attack

SAN SALVADOR — Two youths surfing in El Salvador's Pacific waters were attacked by sharks, with one killed and the other seriously injured, authorities said Friday.

Oscar Mauricio Guzman, 17, was surfing at the El Cocal beach, 20 miles south of the capital Thursday when he was attacked by the fish.

A coroner said the youth had been bitten six or seven times on his arms and legs, but had died from drowning.

A second shark attack occurred two hours later at La Paz beach near Puerto de La Libertad. Jose Diter Roque, 15, escaped the attack alive but doctors said he may lose one of his legs.

NOTE: One hour later, 15-year-old surfer Jose Diter Roque was attacked off a nearby beach but was rescued and hospitalized with a deep gash to his left leg. Witnesses said Roque managed to get back on his surfboard and paddle away after a 12-foot white attacked him. Authorities sent boats to the hunt, saying they believed the same shark killed two oyster fishermen from a fishing boat in August.

SOURCES: Tampa Tribune, Saturday September 18, 1993, page 6; Toledo Blade, September 18, 1993, page 2; Pacific Stars and Stripes, Sunday September 19, 1993

Great white shark hunted after deaths

SAN SALVADOR — Fishermen hunted yesterday for a great white shark believed to be responsible for killing one teenage surfer and injuring another off El Salvador's Pacific coast.

Authorities believe the same shark killed two oyster fishermen in an attack in August on a fishing boat.

Mauricio Guzman Castaneda, 17, drowned Thursday after he was bitten several times on the arms and legs while surfing off El Cocal beach, 25 miles south of San Salvador, authorities said. One hour later, surfer Jose Diter Roque, 15, was attacked but was rescued and hospitalized with a deep gash to his left leg.