



**ACTIVITY:** Swimming

**CASE:** GSAF 2003.04.25

**DATE:** Friday April 25, 2003

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Copo 6, Copacabana Beach, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. 22°54'S, 43°14'W

**NAME:** Felipe Tavares Marinho

**DESCRIPTION:** The swimmer is a 16-year-old male.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** The sky was clear, there was a southerly breeze and the air temperature was 30°C [86°F].

**MOON PHASE:** Last Quarter, April 23, 2003

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The currents were warmer than usual for this time of year.

**ENVIRONMENT:** More sharks than usual were being seen off the beaches of Rio. The species seen are (common name): *anequim* and *mangona* and it was reported that the sharks were behaving strangely "like they are sick."

**TIME:** 18h30

**INJURY:** The swimmer's finger was lacerated.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Not identified

**COMMENT:** On the day after the incident, people killed a 50-kg [134-pound] shark that was swimming in shallow water near a beach. "A shark hysteria has spread on the beaches, leading to the killing of sharks, which normally are pretty small ... and generally hunt for smaller fish," said Col. Jorge Lopes, chief spokesman for the Brazilian state's civil defense. A mob of bathers clubbed and stabbed a pregnant female shark to death in shallow waters at Joatinga beach on Saturday. The shark was about 6.6 feet long [2 metres], the largest of three killed between Friday and Sunday. "Our advice is for people to stay away from sharks when they see them," Lopes said. "We are not only trying to protect bathers from sharks, but also sharks from the people."

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The sighting of two sharks in Leme triggered a State of Alert on beaches of Zona Sul, São Conrado, Barra, and Recreio. The authorities kept a close watch on the area for two weeks in order to discern whether the attack was a freak occurrence or part of a new trend of sharks frequenting the area due to the warmer water temperatures and change in the big fish school migration routes.

**SOURCES:** Local 6 News, <http://www.local6.com/news/2168120/detail.html>; Lifestyles Brazil (Published April 25, 2003), <http://www.lifestylesbrazil.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=index&catid=6>