

ACTIVITY: Wading

CASE: [GSAF 2004.05.22.a](#)

DATE: Saturday May 22, 2004

LOCATION: The incident took place opposite the Fire Department and the Air Force Hospital (Hospital da Aeronáutica) at Piedade Beach, Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil.

8°9'29.91"S, 34°54'40.64"W

NAME: Naiane Barbosa Bringel

DESCRIPTION: She is a 24-year-old female, an undergraduate studying physiotherapy.



Paulo Targino Moreira Lima

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: It had been raining heavily all week, and there was a light rain in the early morning. At 16h00, there were scattered clouds, visibility was 6.2 miles [10 km], the air temperature was 80.6°F [27°C], dew point was 71.6°F [22°C], humidity was 74%, sea surface pressure was 29.89 inches [1012hPa] wind direction was South at 6.9 mph [11.1 km/h].

MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 10% of the Moon was illuminated.

SEA CONDITIONS: Water visibility was poor. The incident took place at high tide.

ENVIRONMENT: According to one shark expert, the region is undergoing an above average weather condition with heavy rain and winds, which may drive sharks towards the coast. The two incidents this weekend were the closest ones to the shore, refuting the theory whereby sharks wouldn't attack in water as shallow as 1.5 metres. Sharks seem to be experiencing an abnormal uneasy activity, probably due to the lack of available food.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 20 metres

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: 1.5 metres.

TIME: 16h00

NARRATIVE: Naiane Barbosa Bringel seldom went to the beach, due to the likelihood of shark attacks. This time, she was with a friend from another state who wanted to take a plunge. Initially, lifeguard Edmir Lopes Junior, thought the girl was drowning, but realized she had been injured when he rescued the girl.

INJURY: The injuries were confined to the buttock and posterior aspect of the right thigh.

FIRST AID: Unknown. She was transported by ambulance to the hospital.

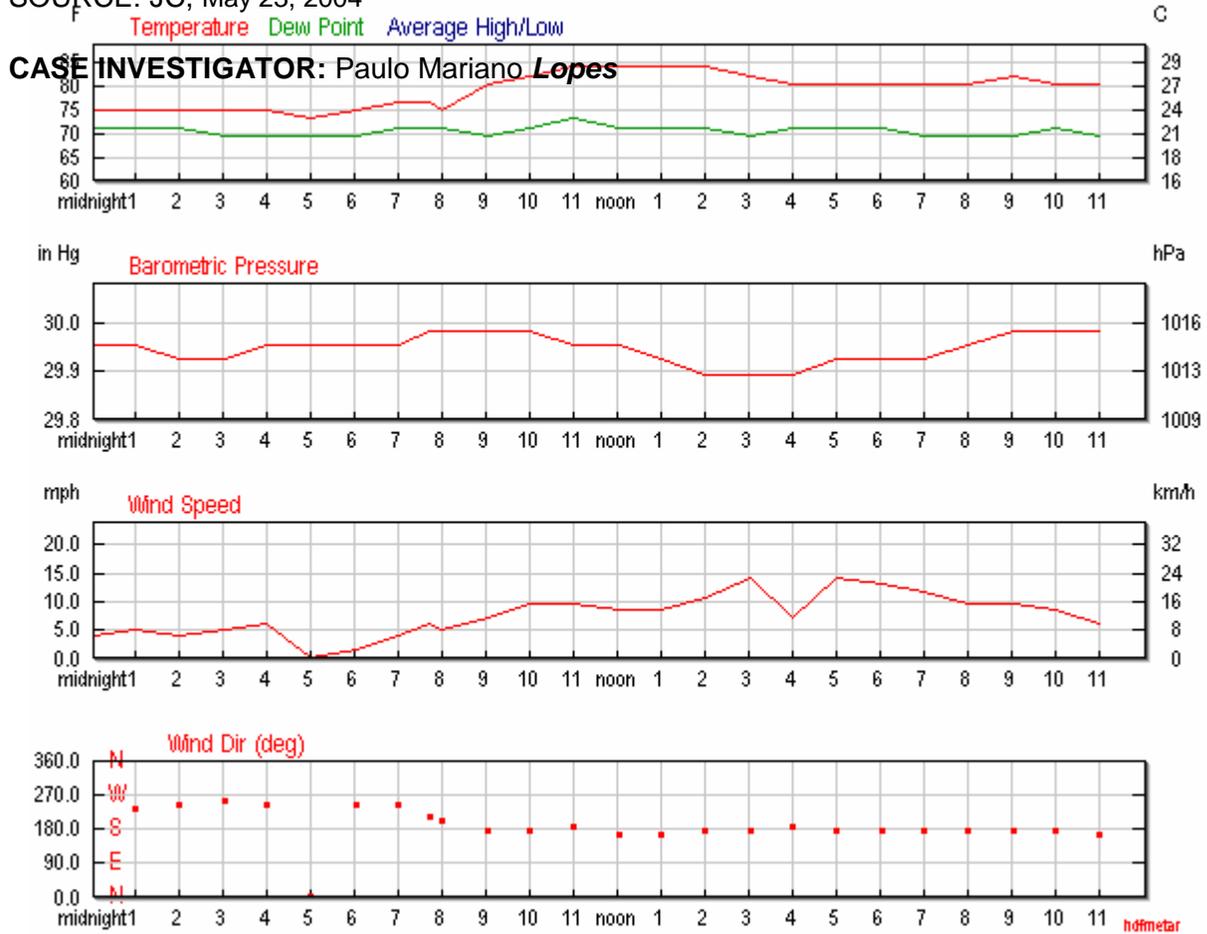
TREATMENT: She survived and her leg was not amputated.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Due to the extent of the injuries, it was thought that this incident involved a shark about three metres in length.

NOTE: Shark attacks off Pernambuco began after the opening of Suape Port in the late

1980s, which affected the habitat of bull sharks that used to breed there, perhaps displacing them. With Suape Port continuing to grow, it is unlikely that the problem will be resolved.

SOURCE: JC, May 23, 2004



Weather at Recife, Saturday, May 22, 2004