

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2006.10.07

DATE: Saturday October 7, 2007

LOCATION: The incident took place off Isla Blanca Park, located at the southernmost tip of South Padre Island where the Gulf of Mexico joins the Lower Laguna Madre, Texas, USA.

NAME: Freddy Torres

DESCRIPTION: The surfer, an adult male from Brownsville, has been surfing for 20 years.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Full Moon

ENVIRONMENT: Schools of small fish were close to shore and other surfers said they spotted sharks in the area the same day. "The day that Freddy got snagged up with one we had been out surfing and we saw some [sharks] and we kept surfing; when there are good waves [sightings of sharks] doesn't tend to stop us," said a surfer. The U.S. Coast Guard says it hasn't had any official reports of shark bites.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 50 feet.

NARRATIVE: "Everything happened really fast. I thought a guy had come and hit me with his board then I felt something tearing through my skin, my ankle somewhere," said Torres. "So I hopped a little and tried to run again because I thought I was going to bleed to death...there was blood everywhere."

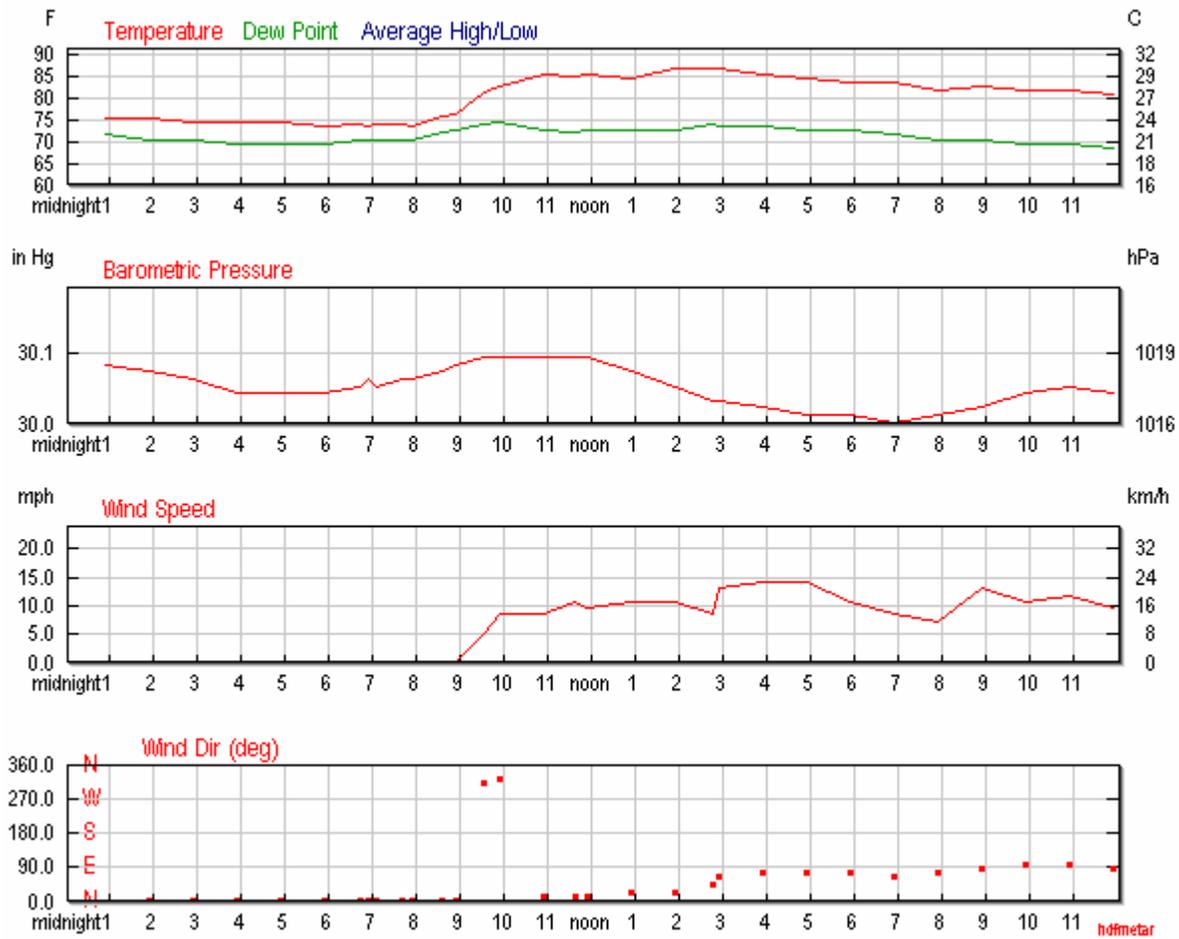
INJURY: Torres sustained two rows of teeth marks on his lower left leg. The shark clamped down and then released the surfer without pulling away. The bite measures seven inches and nearly goes all the way around his calf. Torres says it felt like he'd broken a bone.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Unknown, but Torres' friends helped him "get medical assistance.

SPECIES: Not identified. Witnesses said they saw a four foot shark in the water that day.

SOURCE: Marcy Martinez, KGBT-4, Oct 13, 2006,
<http://www.team4news.com/Global/story.asp?S=5538201&nav=0w0v>





Weather on South Padre Island on October 7, 2006