



**ACTIVITY:** Scuba diving

**CASE:** [GSAF 2015.12.21.a](#)

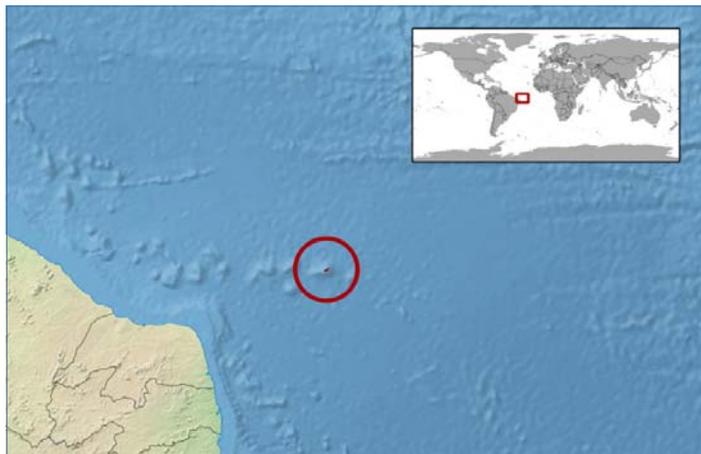
**DATE:** Monday December 21, 2015

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the south Atlantic at Playa del Sueste, Fernando de Noronha, Pernambuco, Brazil.

*3°51'13.71"S, 32°25'25.63"W*

**NAME:** Márcio de Castro Palma

**DESCRIPTION:** A 32-year-old male from Parana state.



#### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Waxing Gibbous, 81% of the Moon was illuminated. Full Moon, December 25, 2015.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The water was murky and the incident occurred near mean high tide.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Fernando de Noronha is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, lies 354 km (220 miles) offshore from the Brazilian coast. The islands of this archipelago are the visible parts of a range of submerged mountains. It consists of 21 islands, islets and rocks of volcanic origin. Playa del Sueste is a turtle nesting site.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** A few metres (150 metres)

**NARRATIVE:** Márcio de Castro Palma visiting the island with his wife and brother. "I swam

to an area where the water was cleaner and was looking to my right at some fish,” he said. “When I looked to the left I ran into the shark. It was on my side. I tried to swim away from him.” The shark pulled Palma to the sea bed. British documentary filmmaker Barney Lankester-Owen swam out to Palma, dragged him out of the water and helped him to a nearby beach stop,



*Márcio de Castro Palma*

**INJURY:** Right hand and part of forearm removed by the shark.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** The patient was initially attended by a medical team of the archipelago’s only hospital and doctors who were touring the area. Next day he was transported to the Hospital de la Restauración in Recife on the mainland where he underwent a second surgery. Because of the risk of infection from the shark’s bite, the patient was started on a course of antibiotics, according to Dr. Rogerio Ehrardt.

**SPECIES:** Palma estimated the shark was 1.5 metres in length. Authorities believe the incident involved a tiger shark.

**SOURCES:** Vanguardia.mx, December 22, 2015

<http://www.vanguardia.com.mx/articulo/tiburon-ataca-turista-en-brasil-le-arranca-el-antebrazo>

O Globo, December 23, 2015

<http://g1.globo.com/pernambuco/noticia/2015/12/turista-atacado-por-tubarao-diz-ter-visto-animal-abrindo-boca.html?noAudience=true>

The Sun, December 29, 2015

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/6827222/It-was-just-like-Jaws-Brit-holidaymaker-rescues-man-from-shark-attack.html>

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