



Aerial view of Los Roques

ACTIVITY: Diving / spearfishing

CASE: GSAF ND.0110

DATE: Late 1960s

LOCATION: Los Roques Islands off the coast of Venezuela

NAMES: Four French divers

BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT: Los Roques, now a National Park, is an archipelago of islands located 85 miles north of Caracas (the capital of Venezuela) and 180 miles west of Margarita Island. This Marine Park has more than 350 islands and keys of coral reef origin with white coral sand beaches and crystal clear blue-green waters. The archipelago is comprised of huge rocks and coral reefs surrounding a central lagoon. The incident took place in a deep area with clean, clear water.



Photo by Philip

NARRATIVE: The divers had been diving for some days, during which time they saw numerous sharks. On the day of the incident they also saw sharks but continued to spearfish, placing their catch on stringers and buoys. The divers were equipped with bang-sticks (spears with explosive heads) when they were attacked by a shoal of sharks. Three of the men disappeared, presumably taken by the sharks. The fourth took refuge on a rock and escaped with minor injuries. Two days later he was rescued and taken to safety in a boat.

SPECIES: The incident was said to involve hammerhead sharks, average size 2.5 metres.

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Original text.....

Um ataque marcante aconteceu em Los Roques (Ilhas) - litoral da Venezuela - final da década de 1960 - quatro caçadores sub franceses em expedição a famosa formação de Los Roques foram atacados por um cardume de tubarões (possivelmente da espécie hammerhead) três dos caçadores foram devorados e desapareceram , um caçador conseguiu se refugiar em um rochedo e assistiu a cena apenas com algumas lesões, em seu relato consta que : avistaram um lugar de água extremamente limpa, azul e de grandes profundidades, começaram a caçar e os peixes capturados eram colocados em fieiras presas ao corpo e em bóias, já tinham tido contato com tubarões dias e horas antes , mas nada de aproximação; todos caçadores tinham consigo ponteiros explosivos, de nada adiantou, quando perceberam estavam envolvidos por dezenas de hammerheads (tamanho médio aproximado 2,5 metros cada um) e o ataque foi imediato não houve círculos, nada, aproximaram-se em bloco e atacaram, apenas um caçador sobreviveu e conta a história graças a sua situação de proximidade com um rochedo, e mesmo assim ficou dois dias em cima dessa pedra até que alguém o resgatou e o levou até seu barco !!!

Translated text.....

marcante attack happened in Los Roques (Islands) - coastal of Venezuela - final of the decade of 1960 - four French hunters sub in expedition the famous formation of Los Roques had been attacked by a shoal of fish of sharks (possibly of the species hammerhead) three of the hunters had been devorados and had disappeared, a hunter obtained to take refuge themselves in a rochedo and attended the scene only with some injuries, in its story consist that: they had sighted a clean, extremely blue water place and of great depths, they had started to hunt and the captured fish were placed in imprisoned fieiras to the body and buoys, already they had had contact with sharks days and hours before, but nothing of approach; all hunters had obtain explosive tips, you are welcome advanced, when they had perceived were involved for sets of ten of hammerheads (so great approach medium 2,5 meters each one) and the attack was immediate did not have circles, nothing, they had come close themselves in block and they had attacked, only one hunter survived and counts history thanks to its situation of proximity with a rochedo, and exactly thus it was two days on of this rock until somebody rescued him and it took him into his boat!

SOURCE: http://waterco.com.br/ataque_tubarao.htm