

ACTIVITY: Windsurfer
CASE: GSAF 1986.03.18

DATE: March 18, 1986

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Mediterranean Sea at Tarifa, Cádiz, Spain.
36°28' N, -6°12' W

NAME: J. L Pérez-Díaz

DESCRIPTION: Male

BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT: Tarifa is a small town on the southernmost coast of the Iberian Peninsula. It is part of the province of Cádiz, which is, in turn, part of the Andalucía region. The town is located on the Costa de la Luz (Coast of Light) and across the Straits of Gibraltar from Morocco.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 300 metres

TIME: 10h55

NARRATIVE: No details.

INJURY: His foot was severed by the shark.

SPECIES: Reports are conflicting but most suggest that the incident involved a 3.5 to 4 m [11.5' to 13'] white shark.

SOURCE: R. Lopez, et al

NOTE: In 1986, there was another incident involving a Spanish windsurfer who was bitten in the leg and seriously injured by what is thought to be a white shark. His right foot (or leg) was later amputated.

SOURCES: See below and next page



Shark attacks in Spain

By Nick Lloyd

Despite the huge numbers of people bathing in the Spanish Mediterranean, reports of dangerous sharks (tiburones) are rare to say the least. A scuba diver was killed by a Great White Shark in Italian waters in 1989, and nearer home another Great White was washed up at Tossa de Mar in Catalonia in 1992. There are, however, two recorded shark attacks in Spain in the twentieth century. The first one was on a Spanish windsurfer in 1986 who was bitten in the leg and seriously injured by what is thought to be a Great White (tiburón blanco or jaquetón - *Carcharodon carcharias*). He later had to have a leg amputated. In 1993, a second attack took place on a swimmer by a "2-metre long, small and slender shark". Identification is unsure. The man lost several toes in one foot. So a tiny, though real, risk does exist.

SOURCE: http://www.iberianature.com/material/sharks_in_spain.htm

On March 18, 1983 or 1986 (or in June depending on the source) an estimated 350 cm great white shark was reported attacking windsurfer L. Pérez-Díaz at 10:55 about 300 m off Tarifa. The windsurfer survived, but lost a foot. It has been suggested by some that the species responsible could have been a shortfin mako, *Isurus oxyrinchus*, while others considered this case doubtful (Joan Barrull, pers. comm.; Francesc Xavier Viñals Moncusi, pers. comm.; GSAF).

SOURCE: Mediterranean Great White Sharks by Alessandro De Maddalena and Walter Heim, Records of Great White Sharks from the Mediterranean Sea (Spain)

The March 1986 incident involving a windsurfer took place outside of the Mediterranean in Tarifa, Spain, on the Atlantic side of Gibraltar ...MEDSAF

Além do mais recente, em 1986, um praticante de windsurf foi atacado por um tubarão cinzento em Tarifa (perto de Cádiz), a uns 300 metros da praia. O tubarão, de 3,5 metros, mordeu o desportista, que perdeu um pé.

In 1986, a practitioner of windsurf was attacked by a grey shark in Tarifa (close to Cadiz), 300 meters off the beach. The shark, of 3,5 meters, bit the sportsman, who lost a foot.

SOURCE: Excerpt from article titled Desvendados mitos sobre tubarões do Mediterrâneo that appeared in Diário dos Acores, August 25, 2007, <http://www.da.online.pt/news.php?id=121490&w=tubar%C3%B5es>

1) J. L Pérez-Díaz, estaba practicando windsurf a unos 300 m.de la playa cuando algo (probablemente un tiburón) le hizo caer de su tabla. Mientras estaba tumbado sobre ella, un Jaquetón (C.carcharias)salió a la superficie,y le mordió la pierna. El tiburón, que sobrepasaba los 3,5 metros,le liberó,dejando gravemente herido al windsurfista. . Posteriormente, le tuvo que ser amputado el pie.Se cree que era un jaquetón (tiburón blanco) tanto por la descripción de la víctima como por la de otros windsurfistas que fueron testigos.

The first attack took place in Tarifa (Cadiz) on 18/03/1986 at 10:55 in the morning, J.L Perez-Diaz, was practicing at about 300 m.de windsurfing beach when something (probably a shark) made him fall from his board. While he was lying on her, a Jaquetón (C.carcharias) surfaced, and bit his leg. The shark, which is over 3.5 meter, liberated him, leaving the seriously injured windsurfer. Subsequently, he had to be the amputee pie. Se think was a jaquetón (white shark) by describing the victim as the other windsurfers who were witnesses.

2) El otro ataque,sucedió el 03/09/1993 a las 8:00 de la mañana, en la Playa de Arenas (Valencia).J. J. Hernández nadaba a unos 200 m.de la costa cuando fue atacado en la superficie por un tiburón pequeño y esbelto,de unos 2 m de longitud. Éste le hirió en los pies,cortando algunos dedos.Se especuló sobre la especie de tiburón pero no se llegó a saber cual era.

The other attack occurred on 03/09/1993 at 8:00 in the morning on the sandy beach (Valencia). J. Hernandez swam about 200 m from the coast when it was attacked on the surface by a shark small and slim, about 2 m in length. He was wounded in the foot, cutting off some dedos. Se speculated on the species of shark but there was no knowing what it was.

The first recorded shark attack in Spain. The March 18, 1986 a windsurfer was bitten on the foot by a large shark. Serious injuries that caused him led doctors to amputate his right foot.