

ACTIVITY: Unknown
CASE: GSAF 1993.00.00.c
DATE: Between May and November 1993

LOCATION: The incidents took place on the beach next to the international airport at Mogadishu, Somalia.



NAMES: Unknown
DESCRIPTION: Somali children

BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT: There was no problem with sharks when hundreds of US Marines swam in the ocean. The attacks began after a United Nations international force took command in May. Unlike other beaches in Mogadishu, the beach opposite the airport has a steep shelf very close inshore and the longshore current sweeps effluent from the harbor along the beach. It was thought that sharks were being drawn inshore by effluent discharged from ships and camel guts dumped in the sea by city butchers.

NARRATIVE: No details

INJURIES: Fatal.

SPECIES INVOLVED: It was speculated that most, possibly all, of the incidents off Mogadishu involved Zambesi sharks.

NOTE: The attacks ceased after the United Nations placed anti-shark nets off the beach. Farouk Mawlawi, the UN spokesman in Mogadishu, defended the high cost of the net and set it would remain after the UN leaves "for the use of the Somalis."

SOURCE: Alex MacCormick, pages 3 & 4, from The Times (London) November 25, 1993; Orlando Sentinel, December 1, 1993 edition, page A.9