

**ACTIVITY:** Bathing  
**CASE:** GSAF 1999.03.18.b  
**DATE:** Thursday March 18, 1999  
**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the lagoon at Atol das Rocas, Brazil.

**NAME:** Dan Cartamil

**BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** Rain storms were brewing.  
**MOON PHASE:** New Moon, March 17, 1999  
**SEA CONDITIONS:** There were high swells, making the passages into the lagoon hazardous and throwing large breakers onto the atoll's shore.  
**TIME:** Afternoon or evening

**NARRATIVE:** From March 12 to April 1, 1999, the research vessel *Seward Johnson* (RVSJ) served as a platform for research conducted under the leadership of Dr. Samuel Gruber. At the time of the incident, 10 researchers had formed a landing party and were working with juvenile lemon sharks within the atoll.

"I was tired and cold," said Dan Cartamil. "I had been sitting in the water for three hours. I grabbed the shark with one hand and was reaching with the other when it flashed its head to the side and bit me. It was so fast! I didn't even think he got me at first, but then the blood started."

At 21h14 [9:14 pm], returning to Atol das Rocas -- the landing party radioed the RVSJ as it headed back to its anchored position west of the atoll. They had successfully captured and sampled 10 juvenile lemon sharks.

**INJURY:** Cartamil was bitten on his hand.

**TREATMENT:** "His injuries required no substantial treatment beyond the first aid he received at the field station on Atol das Rocas."

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** A juvenile lemon shark.

**SOURCE:** <http://www.at-sea.org/missions/sharks/031999/dispatch.html>

*"While releasing an extremely flexible, young lemon shark, another researcher, Dean Grubbs, gets bitten on his upper thigh. Luckily, a wetsuit provided protection against any injury."*

