

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing or body boarding

**CASE:** GSAF 1999.05.01

**DATE:** Saturday May 1, 1999

**LOCATION:** The attack took place at Boa Viagem beach, Pernambuco State, Brazil.

8.1°S, 34.8°W

**NAME:** Charles Heitor Barbosa Pires

**DESCRIPTION:** The surfer is a 21-year-old male, a student.

### BACKGROUND

**WEATHER:** Recife recorded light rain throughout the morning and early afternoon.

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, 99% of the Moon was illuminated.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 70 to 100 metres

**TIME:** Afternoon

**NARRATIVE:** Charles Heitor Barbosa Pires was surfing with two friends when the shark bit his leg, knocking him into the water. He was able to beat off the shark. Then the shark “turned back”, lacerating both of his hands. The surfer was rescued by three lifeguards, one of who said that the attack was made by two sharks.

**INJURY:** The surfer’s right leg was bitten and he sustained lacerations to both hands (defense wounds).

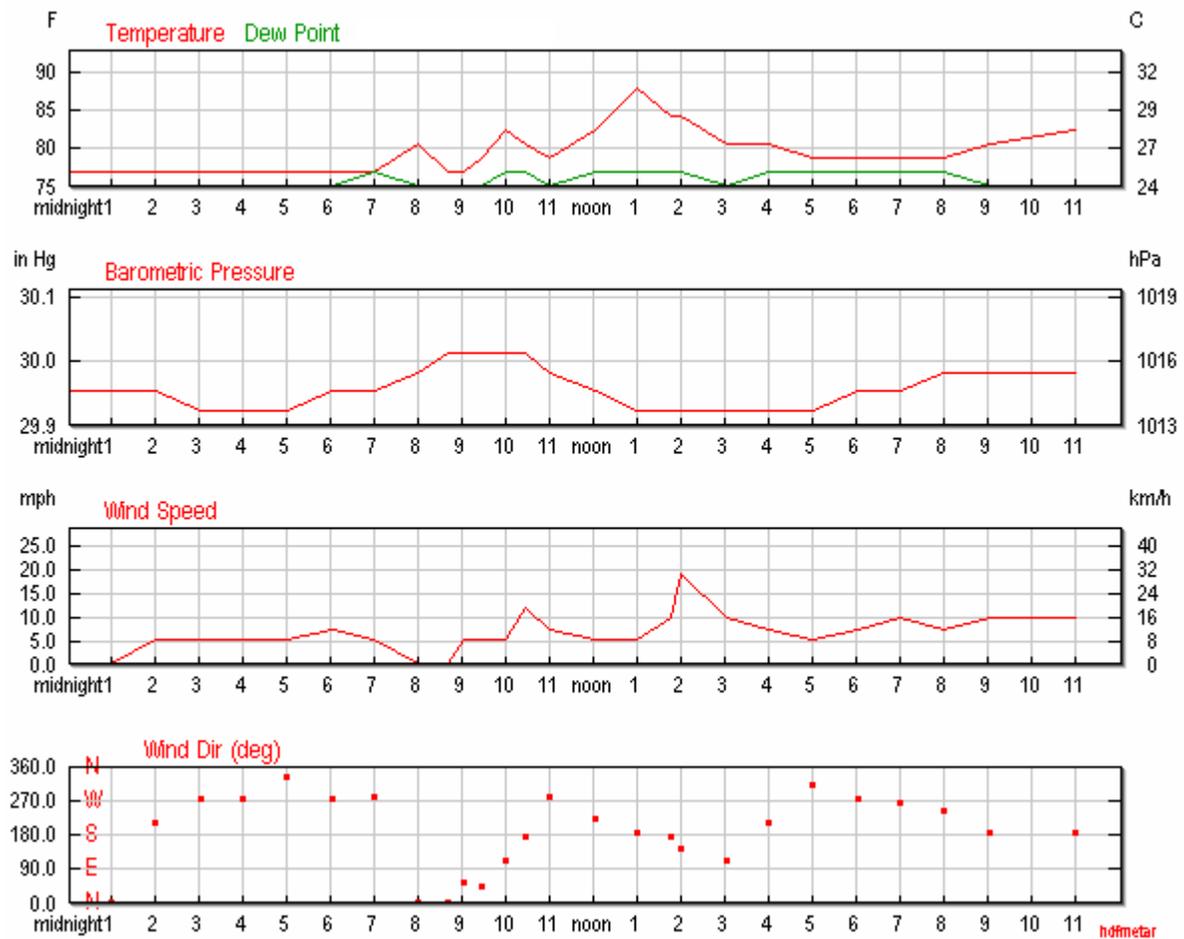
**TREATMENT:** Pires reached the hospital 20 minutes after he was bitten, and underwent surgery to repair his injuries. Carlos Alberto Figueiredo, the vascular surgeon who operated on the surfer, reported that the prompt action of the firemen (lifeguards) saved the young man’s life.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** A tiger shark 2.5 metres in length.

**CASE INVESTIGATORS:** Paulo Mariano Lopes, Global Shark Accident File; Otto Gadig

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*Weather in Recife, Brazil, on Saturday, May 1, 1999*

### **Tiger Shark Attacks Surfer in Recife -Brazil**

The attack occurred at Boa Viagem beach in Recife in the afternoon Saturday (labor day) May 01. It happened one hundred meters from the beach when the surfer was surfing with two friends. The two and a half meter shark bit his right leg, and was beaten off by the injured man, Charles Barbosa Pires, 21 years old. It turned back and bit again, cutting his left and right hands. The man was saved by three lifeguards, one of whom said what the attack was made by two sharks.

Mr. Pires required surgery on Saturday night, and will be in the hospital for more one week.

**SOURCE:** The Associated Press, Saturday, May 1, 1999

### **Rapaz foi atacado por tubarão tigre**

*O tubarão que atacou o surfista Charles Barbosa Pires, 21 anos, na tarde do último sábado, em Boa Viagem, provavelmente é da espécie *Galiocerdo cuvier*, conhecida popularmente como tigre. Segundo o médico Josemberg Marins Campos, chefe de plantão da Unidade de Trauma do Hospital da Restauração, a identificação foi feita pelo pesquisador da Universidade Federal de Pernambuco Fábio Hazin, após uma conversa com o surfista, ontem pela manhã, no HR. O tubarão tigre, junto com o cabeça-chata, tem sido apontado como o responsável pelos ataques ocorridos, desde 1992, aos surfistas que praticam o esporte no litoral pernambucano.*

*Charles Barbosa contou que passou cerca de quatro anos sem surfar, justamente por causa dos frequentes ataques ocorridos em Boa Viagem. "Voltei a pegar onda no ano passado. No sábado, havia chovido bastante e resolvemos entrar no mar porque as ondas estavam boas", explica. Ele disse que estava na altura dos arrecifes quando viu um peixe-agulha e ficou com medo de que tivesse algum tubarão por perto. "Pensei logo em voltar, mas o bicho atacou a minha perna direita e me derrubou da prancha", conta. Na luta travada para se soltar do animal, Charles teve as duas mãos arrancadas pelo tubarão,*

*Segundo a descrição feita pelo surfista o tubarão tinha, em média, dois metros de comprimento. "Quando eu consegui me desvencilhar dele, saí nadando até perder minhas forças e ser ajudado pelo pessoal que estava no mar", conta. Este ano ainda não foi registrado nenhum ataque no litoral de Pernambuco. Ontem, o médico Josemberg Campos afirmou que o surfista se submeteu a uma cirurgia onde foi realizada a ligadura dos vasos dos braços para controlar o sangramento.*

*Charles sofreu fratura exposta na perna direita, mas não há riscos de amputação. "O quadro do paciente é estável e ele não corre mais risco de vida. O que ele está tomando agora são antibióticos para evitar a possibilidade de infecção na região dos ferimentos", explicou o chefe de plantão do HR. A expectativa é de que o surfista receba alta médica dentro de oito dias.*

### **Boy was attacked by tiger shark**

The shark that attacked the surfer Charles Barbosa Pires, 21, on the afternoon of Saturday, in Boa Viagem, is probably the species *Galiocerdo cuvier*, popularly known as Tiger. According to the doctor Josemberg Marins Campos, watch leader of the Shock Trauma Hospital of the Restoration, the identification was made by researchers at the Federal University of Pernambuco Fabio Hazin, after a conversation with the surfer, yesterday morning, in HR. The tiger shark, along with flat-head, has been appointed as responsible for the attacks, since 1992, surfers who practice the sport on the coast of Pernambuco.

Charles Barbosa said he spent about four years without surfing, precisely because of the frequent attacks in Boa Viagem. "I went to pick wave last year. On Saturday, it had rained enough and decided to enter the sea because the waves were good," he explains. He said he was at the time of the reefs when he saw a gar and was afraid that he had a shark around. "I thought at first to return, but the animal attacked my right leg and kicked me off the board," he says. In the battle to hold the animal, Charles had both hands torn by the shark.

According to the description given by the surfer shark was about two meters long. "When I managed to extricate him, went swimming up losing my strength and be helped by staff who were at sea," he says. This year has not been any attack on the coast of Pernambuco. Yesterday, the doctor Josemberg Campos said the surfer underwent a surgery that was performed after ligation of the vessels of the arms to control the bleeding.

Charles suffered fracture in his right leg, but there is no risk of amputation. "The patient's condition is stable and he is most at risk of life. He is now taking antibiotics to prevent the possibility of infection in the wounds," said the head of HR on call. The expectation is that the surfer will receive a medical discharge within eight days.

**SOURCE:** May 3, 1999, JC,  
[http://www2.uol.com.br/JC/sites/tubarao/materia\\_tabela\\_ataques.htm](http://www2.uol.com.br/JC/sites/tubarao/materia_tabela_ataques.htm)

### **Surfista atacado na Praia de Boa Viagem perde as duas mãos**

Na tarde do dia 1º de maio de 1999, o estudante C.H.B.P., de 21 anos, praticava bodybording a apenas 70 metros da areia da Praia de Boa Viagem, Recife (PE), quando um tubarão mordeu sua perna e o derrubou da prancha. Na água, o rapaz tentou se defender esmurrando o animal, que numa segunda investida abocanhou-lhe a mão direita e, em seguida, esmigalhou a mão esquerda. O estudante foi salvo por três salvavidas do Corpo de Bombeiros que, em um ato de heroísmo, se atiraram na água e resgataram o rapaz, que gritava desesperado em meio a uma grande mancha de sangue na água. Vinte minutos após o salvamento, o surfista deu entrada no Hospital da Restauração para uma cirurgia de amputação das mãos. O estudante teve ainda fratura exposta na perna direita. Junto com ele, também deu entrada no hospital um dos bombeiros que participaram do resgate. Estava em estado de choque, provocado pela cena que testemunhou.

**SOURCE:** Marcelo Szpilman, page 140