

ACTIVITY: Spearfishing

CASE: GSAF 1999.11.06

DATE: Saturday November 6, 1999

LOCATION: The incident took place in Guanabara Bay, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

NAME: Unknown

DESCRIPTION: The diver is a 39-year-old Negroid male.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, November 8, 1999

ENVIRONMENT: The incident took place over a rocky substrate in a polluted bay.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: Unknown

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: 12 metres, but the diver was on the surface when he was bitten by the shark.

TIME: 10h30



NARRATIVE: The diver was swimming at surface, preparing to submerge, when he was bitten by the shark. The shark attacked and bit very quickly, and it was not seen by anyone else there.

INJURY: The diver's upper right thigh was bitten. Some 13 tooth marks were visible on his thigh.

MEDICAL TREATMENT: Unknown, but he survived.

SPECIES INVOLVED: The shark was not seen, but the incident probably involved a small shark of the genus *Carcharhinus*: *C. brevipinna* or *C. limbatus*). The estimated size of the shark is 1.3 to 1.6 metres.

COMMENT: Attacks by small sharks in Southern Brazil are increasing in the last years (one or two cases each year in the 1990s). Between December and March (summer in the Southern Hemisphere) several shark species (*C. brevipinna*, *C. limbatus*, *G. cuvier*, *S. lewini*, etc) visit coastal waters to give birth. In that same period the number of swimmers and surfers in the sea has increased at least fifteen-fold.

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