

ACTIVITY: Surfing
CASE: GSAF 2005.03.25
DATE: Friday March 25, 2005

LOCATION: The incident took place at Punta Caracas, near the tourist resort Los Caracas, Venezuela.

NAME: Jokin Leizaola

DESCRIPTION: The surfer is a member of the Basque centre.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The average air temperature in March and April is 27C° [81F°].

MOON PHASE: Full Moon

SEA CONDITIONS: Average sea temperature is 27C° [81F°], but according to the surfer, the water was colder than usual.

ENVIRONMENT: The surf beach is located about two hours by car from Caracas. Waves break on a flat-bottomed rock reef.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 10 metres

DEPTH OF WATER: The surfer reported that he “could not touch bottom.”

TIME: 17h30

NARRATIVE: “I truly did not see what attacked me. I felt a great pain in the leg...when I saw the wound, I tried to swim faster to the shore to avoid another attack”, Leizaola told the newspaper *El universal*.

INJURY: Bite to right leg

TREATMENT: Leizaola was attended at once. He received fifty stitches and was taken to the Caracas hospital where he was given antibiotics to avoid an infection. It was reported that his wound would be surgically repaired in a few days. According to one of the doctors who is a spearfisherman, the surfer’s wound could have been caused by a shark.

SPECIES: Not identified

SOURCE: Shark Attack Survivors, March 30, 2005,
<http://sharkattacksurvivors.com/attack/viewtopic.php?t=698>

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Al Brennecka, Shark Attack Survivors, Global Shark Accident File and SAVN

