

ACTIVITY: Body boarding^{2,3} or surfing¹

CASE: **GSF 2006.06.18**

DATE: Sunday, June 18, 2006

LOCATION: The attack took place in the South Atlantic Ocean at Punta del Chifre Beach in Olinda, Pernambuco, Brazil.
34°51'W, 8°04'S (Recife)

NAME: Humberto Pessoa Batista

DESCRIPTION: He was a 27-year-old male. According to his sister, Taciana Pessoa Batista, he had been surfing for six years.



BACKGROUND

At 09h00, Recife/Guararape Airport recorded that the sky was cloudy (6/8 cloud cover) and the air temperature was 27°C [80°F], relative humidity was 83%, pressure was 1018 (hPa), visibility was >20 km, and the wind was bearing 160° (south) at 24 kph. It had rained the previous day and rained throughout the day of the incident.

MOON PHASE: Last Quarter.

SEA CONDITIONS: At Recife, the sea surface temperature was about 27°C [80°F], mean high tide was at 09h14, and the water was muddy.

ENVIRONMENT: Olinda lies three miles [6 km] north of the city of Recife, and Del Chifre the southernmost beach, is in the District of Salgado. Surfing had been banned in the area, but authorities lifted the restriction this year because few sharks had been seen. Sharks feed along the large coral reef that lies along the coast, and although surfing is still prohibited in nearby Recife, this is the first case of a shark bite at Del Chifre beach.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: Reports vary: 15 metres¹, 20 metres⁴, 30 metres³ or 50 metres²

DEPTH OF WATER: 1,9 metres [2,5 metres⁴]

TIME: 09h00

NARRATIVE. Humberto Pessoa Batista was in the water with about 30 to 40 other surfers when he was bitten by the shark. He managed to swim up to the surf line where he was assisted ashore by other surfers.

INJURY: Fatal. The surfer was bitten on the left thigh. The bite severed his femoral artery and death resulted from exsanguination. His body was buried the following afternoon (Monday June 19, 2006) at Cemitério do Paulista.

FIRST AID: Fatal. The young man was transported by lifeguards (fire fighters) to Hospital of the Restoration (HR) in Recife, where went into cardiac arrest and could not be resuscitated. The area was cleared of surfers. His death was the 18th in the area since 1992 due to shark bite.

SPECIES: Unknown

SOURCES: ¹CNN, <http://edition.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/americas/06/18/brazil.shark.ap/>;
¹Global Surf News, http://www.globalsurfnews.com/news.asp?id_news=22319;

²Folha Online Brasil, <http://www1.folha.uol.com.br/folha/cotidiano/ult95u122894.shtml>

³Radio CBN Online, http://jc.uol.com.br/cbnrecife/2006/06/19/not_36568.php

⁴ Instituto Nacional de Cardiologia Laranjeiras, <http://incl.rj.saude.gov.br/incl/noticias/719.asp>

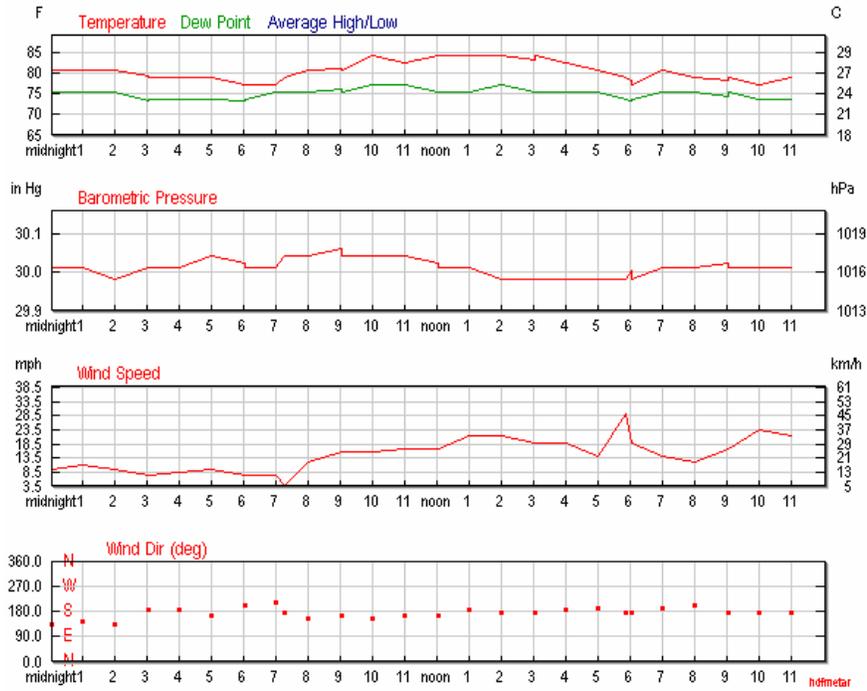


photo courtesy www.surfguru.com.br

*Praia de Del Chifre e ao fundo o porto do Recife
[Del Chifre Beach, and the Port of Recife beyond it.]*



*Ítalo Ricardo Alves Coutinho
was surfing with Humberto
when he was bitten by the
shark*



Weather at Recife on June 18, 2006