



**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** [GSAF 2009.01.10.a](#)

**DATE:** Saturday January 10, 2009

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean at the beach at Villamil Port, Isla Isabela, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador.

**NAME:** Gonzalo Vásquez Alcívar

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 22-year-old male.

### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Waist-deep

**NARRATIVE:** Gonzalo Vásquez Alcívar was surfing with nine friends. He was paddling out to catch a wave when the shark grabbed his right leg and shook him. As the surfer attempted

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to pry the shark's jaws apart, he sustained lacerations to his right hand.

**INJURY:** The surfer was bitten on his right lower leg and foot. He also sustained severe lacerations to three fingers of his right hand (defense wounds).

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** The surfer was taken to Santa Cruz Island for medical treatment, then transferred on Sunday to the clinic in Guayaquil. Dr. Robert Gilbert, surgeon, reported that several more surgical procedures would be necessary to restore mobility to the surfer's foot. The resident physician at the clinic stated there is a 50% chance the foot could be saved.

**SPECIES:** It was thought the incident involved a bull shark.

**SOURCE:** El Universo, January 12 & 13, 2009, <http://www.eluniverso.com>

**NOTE:** A similar accident occurred on November 24, 2008 when a Danish tourist, a female, was injured by a shark at Santa Cruz island. She recovered.

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Christofer Johansson, Global Shark Accident File.



*The beach at Puerto Villamil, Isla Isabela, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador*