

**CASE:** GSAF 2012.11.22

**DATE:** Thursday November 22, 2012

**LOCATION:** The attack took place in the Gulf of California at Nuevo Altata beach (45 miles west of Culiacán), Sinaloa, Mexico.

**NAME:** Francisco Cárdenas García

**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 32-year-old lifeguard.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** At 11h44, Culiacán recorded mostly cloudy skies and seven mile visibility. The air temperature as 89.6°F, dew point 71.6°F, humidity 55%, sea level pressure 29.98 inches, and wind direction was East at 5.8 mph.

**MOON PHASE:** Waxing Gibbous, 72% of the Moon was illuminated. First Quarter, November 20, 2012. Full Moon, November 28, 2012.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** High waves

**ENVIRONMENT:** Juan Acereto, President of the Sinaloa Association of Sports Fishing, suggested that as there were seals in the area, they might have attracted a large predator such as a white shark, mako or cornuda (hammerhead shark). He added that sharks are usually found in open water, not in the bahía.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 150 metres

**TIME:** 11h40

**NARRATIVE:** The lifeguard was attempting to cut a rope/s (attached to a dinghy or nets) entangled in high waves. The young lifeguard was rescued by his compañeros

**INJURY:** Fatal. He sustained deep wounds to his left buttock, leg and calf. He died of his wounds in the hospital in Navolato. The beach was closed to swimmers for three days following the attack.

**SPECIES:** Not identified. The shark was said to be 2.5 metres in length and weighing 50 to 80 kilos [110 to 176 lbs].



*Altata Beach*



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