



ACTIVITY: Swimming
CASE: [GSAF 2015.12.25](#)
DATE: Friday December 25, 2015
LOCATION: Arinaga Beach in Agüimes, eastern Gran Canaria, Canary Islands.

NAME: Cristina Ojeda-Thies
DESCRIPTION: A 38-year-old female from Madrid.



Cristina Ojeda-Thies

BACKGROUND
DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 60 feet

NARRATIVE: Cristina Ojeda-Thies went for a swim after Christmas dinner with her relatives. She told a local newspaper:

“I noticed something pulling at my left arm but I didn’t pay any attention because it felt like a dog biting you when it’s playing. I returned to the shoreline swimming crawl and I felt another pull again, more intense this time. Half a second later I felt something grabbing hold of me, I turned round and I saw it pulling at me. It was a fish. I hit it with my right hand and I saw the shark’s fins as it swam off. Everything happened very quickly, in seconds. Although it wasn’t a painful attack, I didn’t realise how serious it was till I got out of the water. As I turned round I saw it was a big greyish-brown fish and when I hit it I noticed it had hard, rough skin. There are times when I’ve fallen off my bike or I’ve burnt myself cooking and it’s hurt me more. But it’s true it was something that frightened me.”

She struck the shark with her free hand and it swam away.

‘Thankfully I was able to react. I was still in the sea when I put my head underwater to

see if it was following me and look where I could escape to nearer the shoreline and I didn't see it again."

INJURY: Lacerations and puncture marks to left forearm.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: After leaving the water she was treated at a health center where the injury was stitched and antibiotics were prescribed.

SPECIES: Local experts speculate that the injury was caused by a silky shark. Fernando Frias, President of the Canary Islands Shark Alliance, who interviewed the woman, said the shark was thought to be 6.5 feet in length.

SOURCES: Diaro de Vvisos, December 26, 2015

<http://www.diariodeavisos.com/2015/12/tiburon-muerde-mujer-en-brazo-cerca-arinaga/>

Metro UK, Sunday December 27 2015

<http://metro.co.uk/2015/12/27/tourist-bitten-by-shark-off-coast-of-gran-canaria-5586298/>

Daily Star, December 27, 2015

<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/483735/Shocking-photo-tourist-shark-bite-holiday-Gran-Canaria-Cristina-Ojeda-Thies>

The Mirror, December 27, 2015

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/swimmer-attacked-shark-swimming-coast-7077463>