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## Efficiency of protection laws against sharks attacks in the state of Pernambuco - Brazil

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Sharks of the Carcharhiniformes order are often associated with attacks against humans. In Pernambuco State, located in north-eastern of Brazil, from January 1992 to July 2010, 53 attacks was confirmed by the State Committee for Monitoring Sharks's Incidents, two species of this order have been associated with these attacks: *Charcarhinus leucas* (Valenciennes, 1839)-Bull shark- and *Galeocerdo cuvier* (Peron & Le Sueur, 1822)-Tiger Shark-. This paper describes the impact of laws enacted by the Pernambuco Government of to decrease the quantity of sharks attacks in the Metropolitan Area of Recife, studies the statistics of confirmed cases by the State Government and the laws designed to protect swimmers and surfers in that area.

The laws were more effective in the years following the date of its creation and always in response to the relative increase in the number of attacks recorded in these periods (1995, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2005 and 2006), the lowering of quantity of attacks is directly related to action of research (ecology and monitoring of shark), environmental education conducted by the Federal University of Pernambuco to users of Beaches, and the water safety promoted by the Life Guards of local Firefighting Group; the fatality was higher among victims with two or more bites on the body, also when occurs a big bite on the trunk.