

Resource

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DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE OF HAWAII

SHARK CONTROL FUNDS APPROVED

The State legislature, which adjourned April 30, appropriated \$150,000 in fiscal year 1992-93 to DLNR for a shark population control program to improve water safety in Hawaiian waters.

DLNR will consult with the native Hawaiian community in planning and implementing this program.

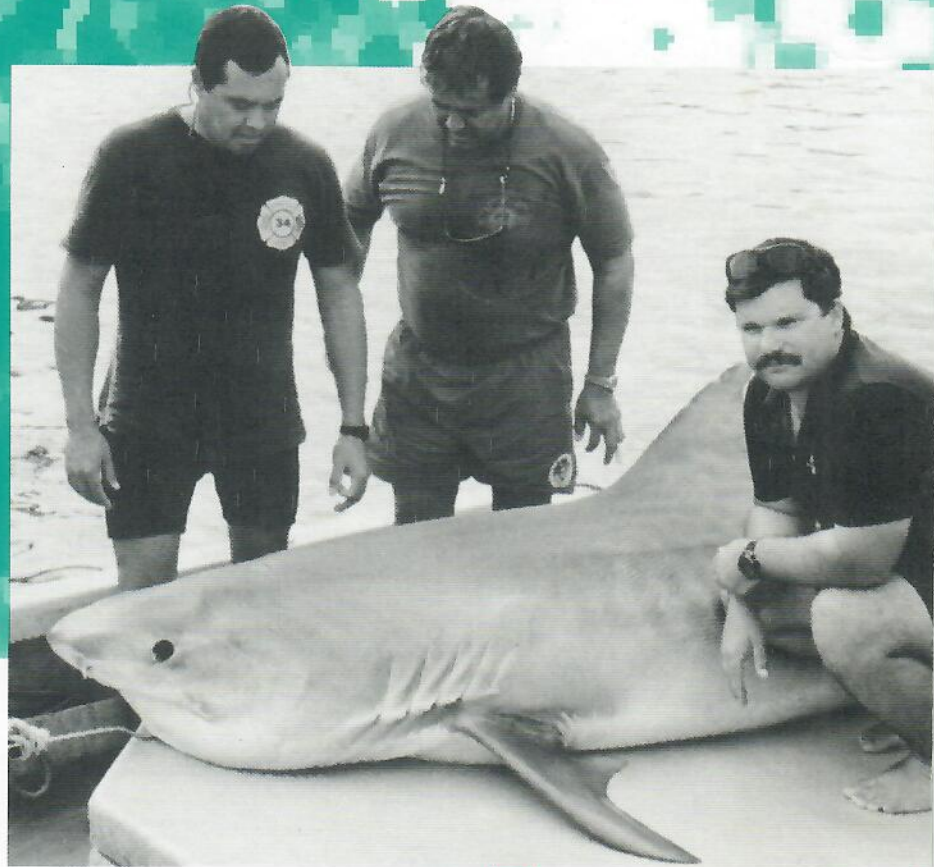
Inclusion of this item in the State budget follows months of debate and controversy about Hawaii's shark "problem."

Hawaii's nearshore waters seem to have more sharks these days, according to many ocean users. And there have been a few attacks on people in recent months, including one confirmed fatality.

What should DLNR do about it?

To find a consensus in the complex shark issue, DLNR circulated a written questionnaire/survey at an April 13 shark task force meeting. Nineteen of the 27 attendees who answered the questionnaire chose the option of conducting research along with a small control effort to kill only a few identified predator sharks or threateningly large sharks at certain sites.

The 36 attendees included representatives from DLNR and other government agencies, Bishop Museum, Waikiki Aquarium, Sea Life Park, National Marine Fisheries Service, City and County of Honolulu Water Safety Division, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, U.S. Coast Guard, University of Hawaii, Hawaii Visitors Bureau and the Waikiki Improvement Association. Also present were commer-



cial fishermen, ocean recreators, a Hawaiian civic/cultural leader and others.

Six people chose the "conduct research program only" option, and two selected "conduct research along with a large control effort (statewide eradication of large potentially dangerous sharks)."

The "do nothing" and "don't spend money or time on research; conduct a large control effort" options had no proponents.

Several people recommended more public education about ways people can avoid attracting sharks.

Here are the responses to survey questions:

1. Does an increase in shark population in local waters present a risk to humans? Yes, 13; Neutral, 11; No, 3.
2. Should an MLCD (Marine Life Conservation Districts)/Artificial Reef be established off Waikiki Beach? Yes, 15; Neutral, 5; No, 7.
3. Should fish feeding be stopped in MLCDs? Yes, 20; Neutral, 7; No, 1.
4. Should Atlantis (submarine tours) be asked to stop feeding fishes at the (artificial) reef site? Yes, 13; Neutral, 8; No, 5. (Comments: (See page 9)

Fisherman Steve Kaiser kneels by 13-foot tiger shark he and his crew caught off Olowalu, Maui. DLNR sponsored this successful shark-catching expedition in response to a fatal attack there in November 1991.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION GIVES 5 GRANTS

The State Historic Preservation Division recently awarded five historic preservation grants. The grant money was established by the 1990 Legislature through a historic preservation special fund.

On Kauai, the Ho'opu-lapula Haraguchi Rice Mill was awarded grant money to restore the mill's machinery. The Haraguchi Rice Mill is the last rice

mill standing in Hawaii and is currently used as a museum.

In Honolulu, the Hawaiian Mission Children's Museum will reroof their three historic buildings: the frame house, the coral block Chamberlain residence and the print shop. The frame house, originally constructed in 1821, is the oldest building in the State. The grant money will allow the museum to restore the buildings to their original roofing material.

Another missionary house, Hale Hoiikeike on Maui, received funding for roof and masonry repairs. It was constructed in 1833 for missionary Jonathan Green. The residence is currently under the care of Maui Historical Society and is operated as a museum.

A fourth museum that received funding is the Greenwell Stores, located on the island of Hawaii, and owned by the Kona Historical Society. Built in the 1870's, it is the oldest

commercial structure on the Kona Coast and one of the oldest in the State. Grant money will be used for termite treatment and window repairs.

The final grant was awarded to the Molokai Museum and Cultural Center for the rehabilitation of 'Ipukaiole fishpond on Molokai. This 3.2-acre pond will be the second fishpond on Molokai to be rehabilitated.

In addition to these special fund grants, the 1991 Legislature appro-

riated moneys to three other preservation projects: Ka Ohana O' Kalae to undertake preservation of the Hawaiian cultural and archaeological sites at the South Point National Historic Landmark; Kona Historical Society to hire a project director to enhance their interpretive programming; and Bishop Museum to prepare plans for a satellite museum facility in Kona. **K**

GREAT AMERICAN HOME AWARDS

Do you know of an old house or landscape that was recently renovated? If so, it could be a winner.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is sponsoring the Great American Home Awards to recognize outstanding residential rehabilitation projects.

To qualify for these awards, the structures must have been designed as a single-family house and still serve as a home; be at least 50 years old; and have been renovated within the last five years.

Prizes include a \$2,000 gift certificate from Sears, certificates and brass plaques, and Sears paint. Winning projects will be featured in the January/February 1993 issue of Historic Preservation magazine.

Applications may be submitted by homeowners or by professionals, such as architects, contractors, and craftspersons. Work must comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

For information and an application form, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Home Awards, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. **K**

SHARK (From page 1)

Stop feeding with dog food; use fruit and vegetables or do not feed at all. Testing, chum sharks out to sea. Suspend for 60-90 days and get feedback.)

5. Can you remove the more dangerous sharks and not the others? Yes, 14; Neutral, 4; No, 9.
6. Do you think increased human activity will reduce the risk of shark attacks? Yes, 2; Neutral, 11; No, 14.

"Although we don't have hard data, the general consensus is that there are more sharks in Hawaiian waters than in previous years," Paty said. "We don't know why for sure. Some people speculate that this is because the State has not conducted shark control activities since the mid-1970s, or that the green sea turtle population has increased.

"Some people demand that DLNR take action. Others, such as Jean-Michel Cousteau, advise against hunting sharks because it could upset the ecological balance," Paty said.

"Most fisheries experts advocate research to help us learn more about shark behavior before we make any management decisions. For example, we could tag some large tiger sharks with sonar tracking devices to tell us their traveling habits," he said.

"If we learn that tiger sharks travel interisland, we might conclude that a hunting effort wouldn't necessarily make the nearshore waters safer for people.

"But if we confirm what many believe that tiger sharks stay in the same area, then we would be better able to make a decision to remove certain large sharks that may pose a threat to human safety," Paty said. **K**



Tiger sharks can be selectively fished using large hooks and proper bait.

There are those opposed to deliberate removal of a few sharks for public safety, including Jean-Michel Cousteau, ocean explorer and conservationist. DLNR invited Cousteau to share his viewpoints with the Shark Task Force during a recent Hawaii visit.

Some people believe that sharks are lured nearshore by people feeding fish, a common practice of tourists and commercial dive tour operators.