



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**  
Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory  
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November 29, 1991 F/SWC2:GHB:JJA  
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MEMORANDUM FOR: George W. Boehlert  
THROUGH: William G. Gilmartin *WGG*  
FROM: George H. Balazs *G. Balazs*  
SUBJECT: Issues of shark attacks, shark research, and  
shark fishing in Hawaii

As top-level predators of sea turtles, monk seals, and nearly all other marine life in Hawaiian waters, tiger sharks are a legitimate subject of research for the Honolulu Laboratory. Events during the past few days relating to the fatal shark attack on Maui have led me to conclude that an interagency advisory panel of scientists is clearly needed to deal with these issues. I want to offer the suggestion that you be the person to initiate this advisory panel. A telephone call to Bill Paty would be the way to start. I believe that he would be very receptive to such an idea, especially at this particular moment.

There is a second recent human fatality on Maui that likely had the direct involvement of sharks. This case will probably be made known to the public in the next few days. For this reason, and others, I hope you will give serious immediate (and favorable) attention to the suggestion of creating a scientific advisory panel.

