

Letters

Control sharks

Your editorial ("We are reminded nature can be cruel," Nov. 29) raised some important points about shark abundance and shark attacks in Hawaii's coastal waters. Sixteen years ago an editorial in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin titled "Controlling Sharks" stated: "Although shark attacks are not common here, even a few are too many. It would take only a few well-published attacks to do tremendous harm to the tourist industry."

Tiger sharks, the largest and sec-

ond most abundant shark living close to Hawaii's shoreline, are top-level carnivores — apex predators — that have virtually no natural enemies once they reach adulthood: It's been about 15 years now since any maintenance fishing has been done to selectively control this population. The key word here is "control," not eradication.

In my opinion, some reasonable and prudent safety measures need to be taken beforehand, not just simply react after the fact.

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The Maui News policy on letters

The Maui News welcomes and encourages Letters to the Editor. The letters should be brief and to the point and on subjects of general interest. Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number for verification.

Typed letters are preferred, but others will be accepted if they are legible. All letters are subject to editing.

Letters may be mailed to The Maui News, 100 Mahalani St., Wailuku 96793; or may be faxed to 242-9087.