

Shark Attacks: Jaws or Frauds?

by Janice Planas

■ Shark.

Just the mere mention of the word stirs up grisly images and primordial fears in most people. Almost every local in Hawai'i can relate at least one story he or she has heard about shark attacks here. It's always a shock when you hear that the waters in which you've played so peacefully have suddenly come alive with merciless teeth. And stories which have an element of shock in them can become clouded with misinformation through creative storytelling.

Some people refuse to believe that some monsters truly do exist; an actual attack is not often witnessed by many people. What with wackos shooting people on freeways and blowing up shopping centers, it's perhaps more interesting to attribute someone's disappearance to human foul play. However, strong evidence, such as shredded shorts, bits of flesh and shark sightings in an area, points to a menace of a different species.

Just how frequent are shark attacks in Hawai'i? Zoologist George Balazs of the **National Marine Fisheries Service** has compiled a historical list of shark attacks in Hawai'i. We've reprinted that list in part here. The list shows that from 1779 to July 1987 there have been 73 cases which are supported by literature documentation. Although the number of cases shouldn't have anyone scrambling for higher ground, it does suggest that a shark attack in Hawai'i is more than remote possibility.

A full draft of the list including literature documentation for each attack can be obtained by contacting the **NMFS, SWFC Honolulu Laboratory F/SWC2, 2570 Dole Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822-2396**.

If you have information on an overlooked or new case of shark attack, George would like to hear from you. You can contact him at the above address, or call him at **NMFS, 943-1221**. . . . Janice

Annotated List of Shark Attacks in the Hawaiian Islands—July 1987

Compiled by George H. Balazs
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Case No.	Date	Location	Victim	Circumstances
1*	1779	Maliu, Hawai'i	Nu'u-anu-pa'ahu	Young male gashed on one side of buttocks after being pursued while surfing. Subsequently suffered "great pain" and died at Pololu.
2*	1828	Lahaina, Maui	Male	"A man out riding surf at 'Uo was killed by a shark which bit off his limbs and left his body floating." Attack witnessed by a number of Hawaiian chiefs.
3*	June 2, 1886	Hamakua, Hawai'i	Two females	Washed into the sea while fishing from shore; one woman found bitten (fatal), the other woman disappeared.
4	Early 1900's	Inter-Island Dry Dock at Kaka'aka Street, Honolulu, O'ahu	Emil A. Berndt	Young boy severely chaffed when a large shark swam between his legs.
5*	Aug. 8, 1902	Kalihi, O'ahu	Young male	Pulled under while crabbing; both arms amputated.
6*	1904	Honolulu, O'ahu	Male	Unprovoked attack, but unable to determine circumstances.
7*	1907	Pepe'ekeo, Honomu, Hawai'i	Male	Bitten while fishing.
8	Oct. 8, 1907	Kalepolepo, Kihei, Maui	Male	Arm amputated at the elbow while retrieving fish caught in net.
9*	Jan. 17, 1908	Mana, Kaua'i	Male	Pulled under while gathering fish stunned by dynamite.
10*	Apr. 10, 1909	Pa'uwela, Maui	Mrs. Ah Kim Chong	Nineteen-year-old woman reported to have been swept away by waves while gathering 'opihi along the rocky shoreline. Search party saw a large shark devour what appeared to be part of the missing woman's body.
11	April 1910	Pearl Harbor, O'ahu	Martin Lund	Unprovoked attack, but unable to determine circumstances.
12*	1910	Hilo, Hawai'i	Male	Bitten while fishing.
13*	March 3, 1914	Honomu, Hawai'i	Okomoto	Washed into the sea while picking 'opihi; attacked by two large sharks.
14	Sept. 28, 1922	Keawanui, Kamalo, Moloka'i	Male	Bitten while inspecting wharf.
15	April 7, 1926	Hilo Bay, Hawai'i	Mrs. Leonard Carlsmith	Bitten while swimming in turbid water near yacht club; severe lacerations on leg; 6-ft shark observed in area.
16*	May 18, 1926	Hale'iwa, O'ahu	William J. Goins	Gave a sudden shriek, then disappeared while swimming at Hale'iwa; remains of body found in 12.5-ft great white shark caught off Kahuku.
17*	Sept. 2, 1931	Kahala, O'ahu	George Gaspar	Swept out to sea by strong currents while fishing; remains of body found in 18-ft shark caught off Barber's Point.
18	Feb. 16, 1932	Lahaina, Maui	Male	Sailor from U.S. Navy vessel SARATOGA bitten while swimming about 1 mile off Mala Wharf. Two wounds, each 6 inches long, were inflicted.
19	Oct. 4, 1939	Kane'ohe Bay, Mokapu, O'ahu	James Akina	Bitten on hand by 5-ft shark while spearfishing in shallow water.
20	July 1, 1941	Nanakuli, O'ahu	Hisao Shimoto	Bitten on arm while removing 100-lb shark from fishing line.
21*	June 1943 (?)	Ma'alaea, Maui	Male	Soldier's shorts and an arm recovered from a shark caught at Ma'alaea. Items seen at the 22nd Army hospital in Makawao.
22	1943	Midway, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands	Male	Unprovoked attack, but unable to determine circumstances.
23	1943	Midway, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands	Male	Unprovoked attack, but unable to determine circumstances.
24	June 27, 1947	Makaha, O'ahu	Valentine Limatoc	Bitten while spearfishing with six other men.
25	Sept. 19, 1948	Makapu'u, O'ahu	Noah Kalama	Bitten on leg while swimming.
26*	June 25, 1951	Kapehu Beach, Laupahoehoe, Hawai'i	Alejandro Nodura	Swept out to sea while fishing from shore. Victim seen in shark's mouth.
27*	Aug. 3, 1952	Ala Moana, O'ahu	Shigeichi Kawamura	Missing while swimming. Shark bite found on right side of body.
28*	Dec. 3, 1952	Ma'ili, O'ahu	Gerbacio Solano	Bitten on arm while swimming from fishing boat; shark reported to be in excess of 22 ft.
29	Feb. 18, 1953	Barber's Point, O'ahu	James S. Takeuchi	Bitten on hand while removing shark from net.
30	July 4, 1953	Ka'ula Rock	David Crick	Fell off boat while fishing; bitten on leg.
31*	Apr. 15, 1953	O'ahu	Leonard Gaut	Unprovoked attack, but unable to determine circumstances.
32*	July 26, 1953	Ma'ili, O'ahu	Harold Souza	Bitten on thigh while spearfishing close to shore; 10-ft shark observed.
33	Sept. 2, 1953	Waiau, Pearl Harbor, O'ahu	Daniel Gonsalves	Bitten on leg and foot by 5-ft hammerhead shark while crabbing.
34*	Apr. 8, 1954	Wailupe, O'ahu	Gordon S. Chun	Missing while fishing from shore; body recovered in mutilated condition.
35	1954	Moloka'i	Severino	Unprovoked attack, but unable to determine circumstances.



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36	April 1955	Hilo, Hawai'i	Kanematsu Oshiro	Bitten on hand while fishing from boat.
37	Sept. 20, 1955	East Moloka'i	Phillip C. Diez	Bitten on arm while swimming.
38*	Dec. 13, 1958	Lanikai, O'ahu	William S. Weaver	Leg amputated while surfing on an air mattress near Twin Islands; 15- to 25-ft shark (believed to be tiger shark) observed near body.
39	1950's	Waikiki, O'ahu	David Lloyd	Provoked attack, but unable to determine circumstances.
40	Feb. 27, 1960	Makena, Maui	John Benjamin	Severe lacerations obtained while spearfishing.
41*	Dec. 27, 1960	Ma'ili Point, O'ahu	Harold Riley	Swept out to sea while net fishing; 20-ft shark observed attacking victim; body recovered off Nanakuli.
42	Aug. 2, 1961	Pearl Harbor, O'ahu	Kazuhiko Kato	Bitten on hand by 8-ft shark while net fishing.
43*	Apr. 8, 1963	Hapuna Beach, Hawai'i	Roy C. Kametani	Washed into the sea while picking 'opihi; parts of body recovered.
44	Apr. 12, 1963	Awili, South Kona, Hawai'i	Aiona Aka	Bitten on leg and foot while surfing; 12- to 15-ft shark observed.
45*	Sept. 20, 1967	Kailua, Bay, O'ahu	Male	Victim lost at sea when boat capsized between O'ahu and Moloka'i; remains of body found in 11-ft tiger shark.
46	March 9, 1969	Makaha, O'ahu	Licius Lee	Bitten on leg while surfing; identified as great white shark; dead whale recently removed from the area.
47	Nov. 11, 1969	Barber's Point, O'ahu	D. R. McGinnis	Bitten on tank while scuba diving; abrasions on arms and legs resulting from contact with shark.
48*	1960's (?)	Off Lahaina, Maui	Danson Nakaima	Passed out while scuba diving for black coral at 180 ft. About 30 large sharks seen near remains of the body.
49*	Mar. 31, 1970	Waimea Bay, O'ahu	Ernie Reathaford	Swept out to sea while body surfing; 15- to 18-ft shark observed.
50	Oct. 24, 1970	Brennecke Beach, Poipu, Kaua'i	James C. Mattan	Bitten on shoulder and arm while body surfing.
51	Mar. 16, 1972	Waihe'e, Wailuku, Maui	Adam Gomes, Jr.	Bitten on leg while spearfishing.
52	Aug. 17, 1972	Waimanu, Honoka'a, Hawai'i	Eric Fotherby	Bitten on arm by 8-ft shark while spearfishing.
53	Jan. 9, 1973	Ho'okipa Beach, Pa'ia, Maui	Robert Sterling	Bitten on leg while surfing close to shore; 4- to 6-ft shark observed in area.
54	Dec. 18, 1973	Kalama Beach, Kihei, Maui	Gary W. Floyd	Bitten on leg while swimming close to shore.
55*	June 10, 1976	Kama'ole Beach Park No. 1, Kihei, Maui	Donald Gard	Bitten on foot and leg by 3- to 5-ft shark while swimming.
56*	July 20, 1976	Maha'ulepu, Koloa, Kaua'i	Stephen C. Powell	Missing while scuba diving; lower remains of body recovered.
57	Apr. 21, 1977	Ka'anapali, Maui	Ruskin Vest	Bitten on arm by 4-ft shark while swimming close to shore.
58	Nov. 27, 1978	'Ewa, O'ahu	Wendell Cabunoc	Bitten on arm while surfing; 8-ft shark observed.
59*	1979 (?)	South Kohala, Hawai'i	Elderly male	Disappeared while fishing from shore. Fire department divers only found a hand and a flashlight.
60	Aug. 4, 1980	Puamana, Lahaina, Maui	Mark Skidgel	Bitten on left side of body while surfing close to shore; identified as 14-ft tiger shark.
61*	May 24, 1981	Ha'ena Beach Park, Kaua'i	Roger B. Garletts	Missing while scuba diving at 60- to 80-ft; only diving equipment recovered, including shredded wet suit bearing numerous tooth marks. Victim reportedly spearfishing in murky, choppy water.
62*	June 12, 1982	Honoli'i Pali, Hilo Bay ('Alae Point), Hawai'i	Preston D. Soley	Retrieval of floating body hindered by 4-ft shark. Autopsy showed that death was probably from drowning. One-third of body missing due to bites by at least four sharks.
63*	Aug. 24, 1981	Keaukaha, Hilo, Hawai'i	Ernest Watson	Disappeared while fishing from shore. Leg found seven days later wedged in rocks 150 yd offshore.
64	Nov. 9, 1981	La'au Point, Moloka'i	Leo A. Ohai	Bitten on hand while untangling crab-trap line from propeller. Seven-foot shark had followed the boat for three days and reportedly was very unusual looking with a "flat head."
65	Dec. 13, 1981	Nimitz Beach, Barber's Point, O'ahu	Melvin T. Toma	Severely bitten on right leg by 12-ft tiger shark while swimming at the surface shortly after entering water; site located 300-400 yd offshore over depth of 20 ft. Looking for fish, but none had been taken when attack occurred.
66	Feb. 14, 1982	White Plains Beach, Barber's Point, O'ahu	Lisa Miller	Bitten on left leg while wading in 3- to 4-ft of water; 17 stitches required.
67	Feb. 14, 1982	White Plains Beach, Barber's Point, O'ahu	Female	Bitten on right foot while swimming in shallow water.
68	June 13, 1982	Ho'okipa Beach, Pa'ia, Maui	Scott Shoemaker	Severely bitten three times on the thigh after falling into water while sailboarding 100 yd outside the breakers. Required 120 stitches.
69	June 3, 1984	Kane'ohe Bay, O'ahu	Susan Buecher	Bitten on the foot while being pulled on a plastic ski board by a swimmer. Incident happened at 1700 h in water 5-ft deep, about 400 yd from shore. Numerous stitches and a cast required.
70	Oct. 12, 1985	Barber's Point, O'ahu	Dominic Dela Cruz	Severe gashes to left arm requiring surgery. Attack occurred off Barber's Point Lighthouse while floating on an inner tube after diving for lobster.
71	Oct. 18, 1985	Princeville, Kaua'i	Joe Thompson	Right hand and forearm amputated by a large shark while boogie-boarding. Believed to be a tiger shark.
72*	Apr. 20, 1986	Kalihiwai, Kaua'i	Levi Chandler	Fell from rocks and disappeared while fishing at Kalihiwai Point. Pieces of clothing and human flesh were recovered by fire department divers who encountered a large shark.
73*	Apr. 15, 1987	Kailua-Kona,	Daniel Kennedy	Last seen swimming from shore out to an anchored sailboat. Swimming trunks found bitten in half on the bottom.

* Fatal.

IGFA to Expand All-Tackle Program

by Elwood Harry
IGFA President

■ If your favorite sport fish is not among the 151 species listed by the **International Game Fish Association (IGFA)** in their current world record programs, you may now have an opportunity to set an all-tackle world record!

IGFA has announced that it is revising and expanding its all-tackle world record program by opening it to gamefish species not currently on their record lists (past catches included) and by reviewing well-documented applications for past catches that exceed their current listings.

All-tackle records are maintained for the heaviest fish of a species caught according to IGFA angling rules on any line up to 60-kg (130-lb) class. The listings are being expanded to recognize catches of species which, though popular in various fishing areas, have never been documented in a world record program. The evolution of the all-tackle program to date has also excluded recognition of past catches in instances where new species have been added over the years.

Effective immediately, IGFA will begin accepting applications for "all-tackle" recognition of species whether or not they are included among the world record species in the association's *1985 World Record Game Fishes* book. This applies to both freshwater and saltwater fishes.

Catches made on or after January 1, 1985, must be in accordance with the then current IGFA angling rules and world record requirements. The angler must complete the IGFA world record application form in its entirety and submit the required data and information.

For catches made in the past, as much information as possible must be submitted on an IGFA world-record application form with additional substantiating data. It will be mandatory that acceptable photographs be submitted and that the weight of the fish can be positively verified and the method of catch substantiated.

Applications for "new species" must conform to the following requirements in addition to published IGFA rules:

1. The fish must represent a valid species with a recognized scientific name.
2. The fish must be a species commonly fished for with rod-and-reel in the general area where the catch is made.
3. The fish must be identifiable based on photos and other supporting data presented with the application.
4. The fish must be considered "trophy-sized." A rule of thumb will be that the weight must fall within the top half of the estimated maximum weight of the species. (The minimum weight requirement for any IGFA record is 1 lb [0.45 kg].)

The first new listing of all-tackle records was announced in January 1985, at which time appropriate certificates were issued for the largest approved catches. Entries in IGFA's Annual Fishing Contest (including validated entries from past years) will also be considered for all-tackle recognition. No new species will be recognized or added to the record system during the calendar year of 1985.

All-tackle record applications for species currently included in IGFA's record program will be processed and awarded during 1985.

Decisions by IGFA's Executive Committee regarding acceptance or rejection of record claims will be final.

We are undertaking this revised and expanded record program in order to recognize all sport fish of interest to anglers worldwide and so that our all-tackle listings will truly reflect the heaviest catches made in a sporting manner on rod and reel, whether past or present.

A current copy of IGFA world record rules and requirements is available for \$1.00 (U.S.) to cover cost, postage and handling. Address all requests and communications to: **IGFA, World Record Department, 3000 East Las Olas Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316-1616.** . . . Elwood

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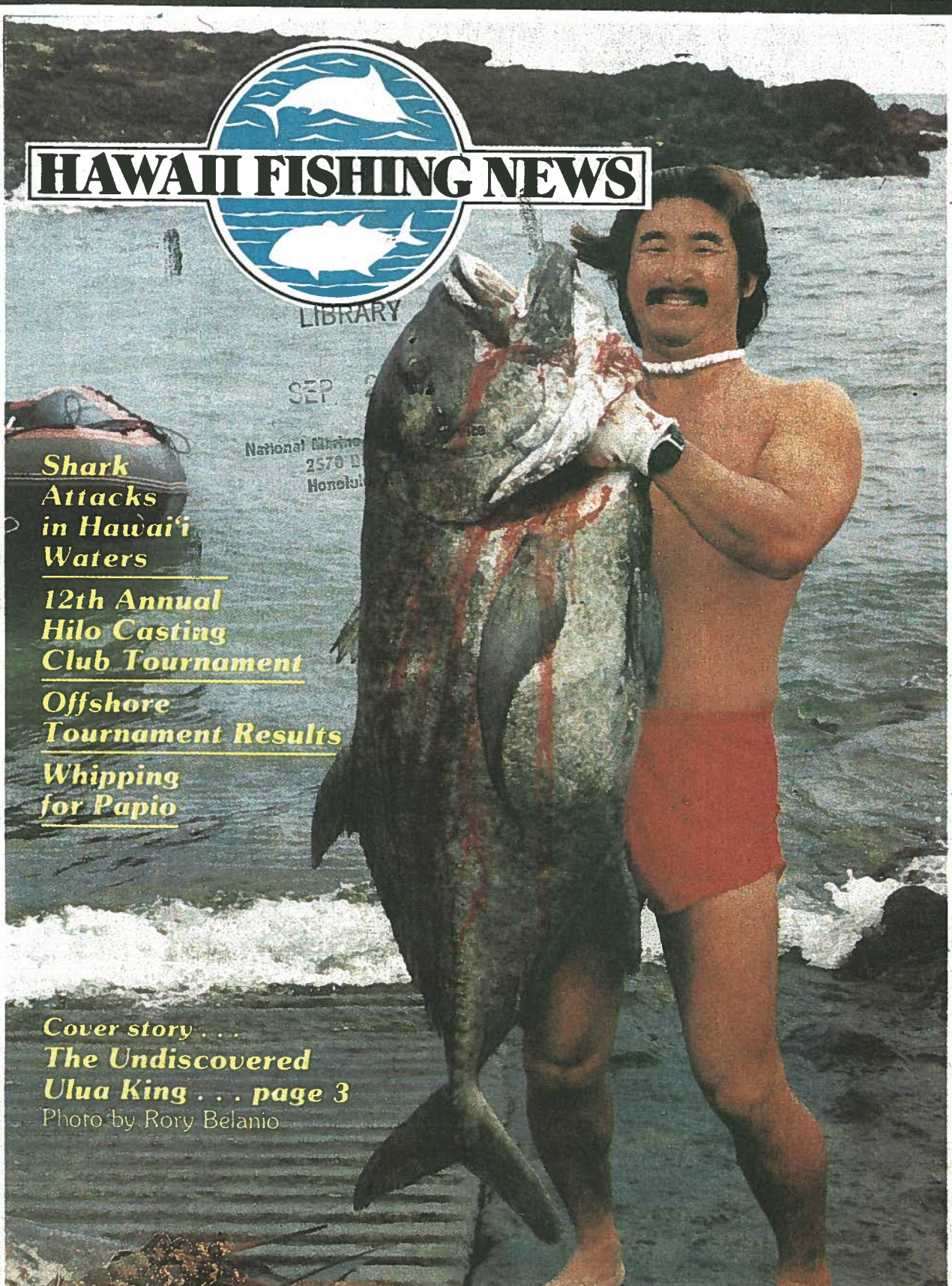
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