

# OCEAN PROMOTION

CAROL HOGAN

P.O. Box 2825

KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII 96745

July 10, 1987

Dear George,

As yet, we haven't had any response to the shark article. I'd love to update the whole chart and re-publish it at a future date.

I'm in the process of buying the magazine right now, and by September 1 hope to be the new owner. If you have any other correspondence, please address it to me at the P.O. Box above.

Aloha,

*Carol*

Carol

Ph: (808) 326-1011  
(808) 329-4666



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory  
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

June 26, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Harry Lyons  
P. O. Box 907  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745-0907

Dear Mr. Lyons:

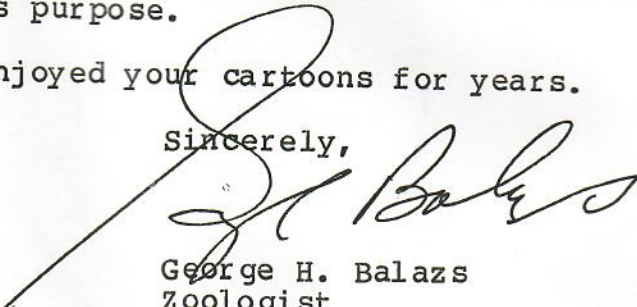
A copy of the June 1987 issue of "Kona Coast" was given to me yesterday and I had the opportunity of read your two interesting articles about the Kona shark incident. I am certainly in agreement with your introductory comment that one does not want to "...generate further fears nor whitewash the potential dangers of sharks." My own professional interest in sharks, specifically tiger sharks and great whites, stems from the fact that they are major predators of sea turtles. As the leader of the Hawaiian Sea Turtle Recovery Team, I am involved in numerous aspects of research on Hawaiian sea turtles.

In past years I have published two articles documenting shark attacks in the Hawaiian Islands. Up until that time, no summaries of this nature were available in the literature. Copies of the articles have been enclosed for your information. In addition, a formal and authenticated list of attacks in Hawaii is being maintained under my direction here at the Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory of the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA. The list is now being up-dated and will be available to anyone in the near future upon request.

I hope that this information will be helpful to you. I don't normally see issues of "Kona Coast," so when Part 2 of your article on sharks appears in July, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy. A self-addressed and postpaid envelope has been enclosed for this purpose.

Best regards. I've enjoyed your cartoons for years.

Sincerely,

  
George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: John Naughton, WPPO



## STAFF

**Harry Lyons**  
*Editor and Publisher*

**Vonnie Lyons**  
*Associate Editor*

**Dick Johnson**  
*Contributing Writer*

**Jim Becker**  
*Contributing Writer*

**Bruce Sterner**  
*Contributing Writer*

**Kona Coast Typesetting**  
*Production Services*

**Stan Michaels**  
*Advertising Manager*

## DISTRIBUTION

"Harry Lyons' Kona Coast Magazine" is available on or about the first day of each month from racks at convenient locations throughout West Hawaii. See *Where To Find It* on page 61.

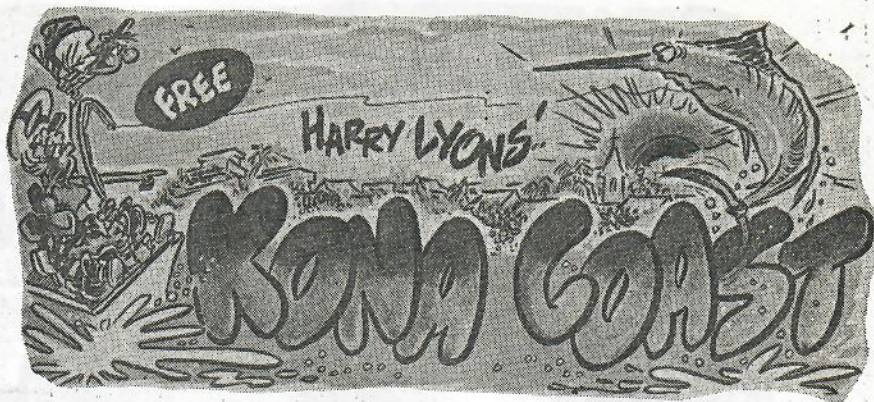
## SUBSCRIPTIONS

"Kona Coast Magazine" is available by mail subscription for \$30 per year, in advance, which includes first class postage and handling.

## CIRCULATION

Guaranteed 10,000 copies monthly.

"Harry Lyons' Kona Coast Magazine" is published monthly in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii by Lyons On The Loose, Inc. All editorial and advertising correspondence should be sent to: Harry Lyons, Post Office Box 907, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96745-0907. Phone (808) 322-0020. ©1987. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part without written permission is prohibited. Unsolicited material submitted for publication must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. All material submitted is at owner's risk. Publisher cannot be responsible for care or return of manuscripts, photographs or art. Publisher reserves the right to edit all materials.



Volume Four, Number 12

June 1987

### LYONS ON THE LOOSE

*The Portly Prop. turns sentimental over Ye Olde Kona and wonders why he's never asked to judge bikini contests.*

Front Cover

### WHAT THE HELL IS THAT BUILDING?

*A Handy-Dandy guide to which new concrete mushroom is which.*

15

### THE BIRDMAN OF KAPAAU

*Pink Flamingos and Black Swans bring their gentle graces to the rugged Big Island.*

19

### RESTAURANT ROW

*Our gluttonous gourmand discovers a nifty Chinese restaurant that's been right over our noses all this time.*

23

### GRAB BAG

*Good Humor man Dick Johnson soberly traces the history of some of the world's most exotic drinks.*

30

### PANILO PATTER

*Fickle mynah birds at Kona Village and a ribald invasion of Kailua by the Edelweiss gang.*

32

### BECKER ON SPORT

*Resident sports whiz Jim Becker lets his mind wander and now it won't come back.*

38

### BOMBSHELL MISHELLE

*An Ice-Bronze dancer is our June Swoon.*

43

### BIG GAME JOURNAL

*There are wild and wooly doings on the high seas and our Bruce Sterner has the pictures to prove it.*

49

### COFFEE GROUNDS

*All our illusions are shattered by the news that bunny rabbits can be horrendous hares.*

58

### THE GRAND HOLLAND TOUR

*The tulips are in bloom in Holland, and Richard C. Johnson is there to sniff them. A preview of part of Fun Trip III.*

63

### GALLERY

*A bit quiet this month on the artistic front, but Vonnie Lyons tells us of some happenings planned for the Summer.*

66

### THE GREAT SHARK PANIC

*First of a two-part series on sharks: myths, superstitions and facts about the toothy terrors.*

71



Covering the Kona Coast  
from Kamuela to Capt. Cook  
Volume Four, Number 12

# JUNE 1987

★ ★ ★ ★ **INSIDE** ★ ★ ★ ★  
 THE GREAT SHARK PANIC • WHAT  
 THE HELL IS THAT BUILDING? • THE  
 BIRDMAN OF KAPAAU • FUN TRIP  
 III: THE GRAND HOLLAND TOUR •  
 BOMBSHELL MISHELLE • BECKER  
 ON SPORT • BIG GAME JOURNAL •  
 PANIOLLO PATTERN • RESTAURANT  
 ROW • GALLERY • GRAB BAG •  
 COFFEE GROUNDS • LYONS ON THE  
 LOOSE • AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!



## WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

A recently released Planning Department report on one of the most popular tourist destinations in the U.S. had the following things to say:

- Basically, the area is inhospitable and unattractive.
- It has too many shoddy tourist trappings at odds with a world-famous fishing environment.
- The new architecture is of "visually bland roadside commercial quality, unsuitable for a major tourist destination."
- It lacks helpful signs for visitors.
- It's practically impossible to find a parking place.

Sound like anyplace you know? Maybe Kailua-Kona, at least some of the criticisms?

It's not; it's a City Planning Department report on San Francisco's famed *Fisherman's Wharf*, and it's the most critical offi-



**WHAT'S HOT & WHAT'S NOT  
IN WEST HAWAII**

for the meat is practically infinite. The smaller twosomes are usually spawning and have no intention of taking your lure. However, once you move out into a grimy trash line caused by a dumping steamer, the big bulls lurk beneath the swill and are primed for their noon feeding.

Mahi-mahi have been located under a floating piece of newspaper, this magazine or Drysdale's cocktail napkins. Regardless of your oceanic naivety, the fish does have a brain and does not relish the thought of gracing your condo dining table any more than you would consider being shark chum.

Once a hooked mahi is "at leader," sees

you at the reel and the deckhand with a menacing gaff, it's bad news for all aboard. An infuriated mahi-mahi in the stern of a boat can wreak holy havoc. Several cases of lingering staph infection have been reported because an angler could not vacate the fighting chair in time to avoid impalement by an exploding mahi.

Despite these drawbacks, the mahi-mahi is about as fine a prize as a visiting angler could hope for.

Have fun fishing for mahi-mahi, folks!

### ✓ "A SCARY SITUATION"

By now everyone is probably aware of the story concerning a Kona resident who was last seen swimming towards his boat moored in Kailua Bay to make apparent repairs. Divers subsequently found bits of submerged clothing and a shark attack was presumed.

The distraught family hired Capt. Rick Rose's Aerial IV to hunt down the beast to prevent others from a similar fate and I hope for personal revenge. This was not an easy task but Rick and the Aerial IV responded brilliantly by boating a 710-lb. tiger shark *in the very area where the disappearance occurred!*

After the monster was hooked, it took four hours of painstaking night fishing to finally

*Big Fish ...  
Big Bucks ...  
Catch the Excitement!*

### 1987 SCHEDULE



**July 11th & 12th**  
ENTRY FEE:

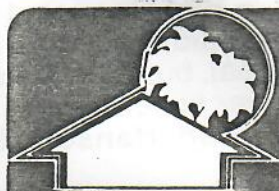
Ahi Division: \$300.00  
Marlin Division: \$300.00  
Both Divisions: \$600.00  
Up to Six People on Board  
(including captain & crew)  
Extra Members: \$50. each



**The Big One!**  
**September**

**14th, 15th & 16th**  
ENTRY FEE: \$15,000  
Up to Nine People on Board  
(including captain & crew)

**WESTERN SPORTS TOURNAMENTS, INC.**  
78-505 Puuiki Road • Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 • (808)322-3822  
FROM THE MAINLAND CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-255-KONA



## KONA VACATION RESORTS

We specialize in the rental of a wide variety of fully-equipped condominiums on the Kona Coast.  
Call Us! — 329-8488

**Toll Free from the Mainland & Alaska**  
**1 - 800 - 367-5168**

**NOW Toll Free from Canada, too:**  
**1 - 800 - 423-8733 ext 329**

A division of Real Estate Works Hawaii Inc.  
Post Office Box 1071 Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96745



Shark hunters: vengeance is theirs.

land it onboard in the wee hours of the morning. A coincidental circumstance? Maybe, but I have my doubts. As I understand it, shark attacks are rare in Hawaii but large predators have been recognized in the past too close to shore for my comfort.

I certainly don't want to spook anyone from bathing, but I recall three years ago

Continued on page 54

(G) (PG) **ALII PHOTO HUT** (R) (X)

HUGGO'S  
PARKING  
LOT

329-0111

**kis**

**PHOTO**

**1 HR. PHOTO · DRIVE UP**

**KONA SHELL  
ROAD SERVICE**

**AUTO REPAIRING**

- RADIATOR SERVICE
- TUNE - UPS
- Complete Line of Auto Accessories
- Brake Service
- Shocks
- Wheel Balancing
- Batteries & Accessories

**329-1696**

**OPEN 7 DAYS  
7 A.M. - 8 P.M.  
KAILUA**



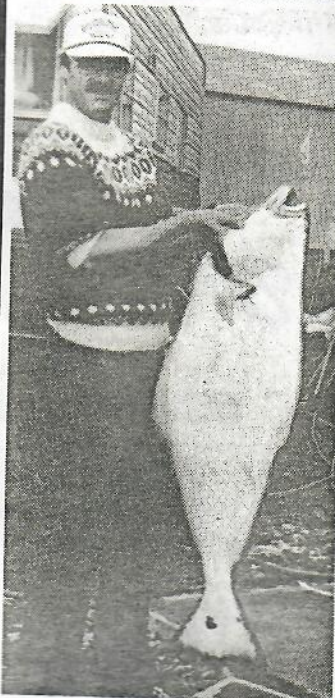
**BIG GAME JOURNAL** from page 53

when **Malcolm Spinney** caught a 1,000-lb. Great White single-handedly off White Sands in his skiff.

I have a 14-year-old daughter who paddles in Kailua Bay nearly every day. This is beginning to sound like a movie I once saw and to me it's a scary situation. I don't know if the missing man's whereabouts will ever be determined, but let's hope the Aerial IV has put at least a temporary end to these coastal marauders.

**NORTH TO ALASKA**

Alaskans contribute liberally to our economy every year so I thought we'd reciprocate for their generosity. The *First Annual Kona/Anchor-age Salmon-Halibut-Clam Digging Expedition* is being planned for the summer of 1988.



Landing a large King salmon takes some muscle, and halibut can be even nastier. Annual Kona visitor **Jack Lippincott** is shown here displaying an "infant" halibut taken on the Kenai River.

Premature as it may seem, it takes a while to organize these trips properly. I'll keep you posted but don't hesitate to call me if you're interested. Gas up the amphibious planes, here come the Konans!

**QUARTERDECK QUOTES**

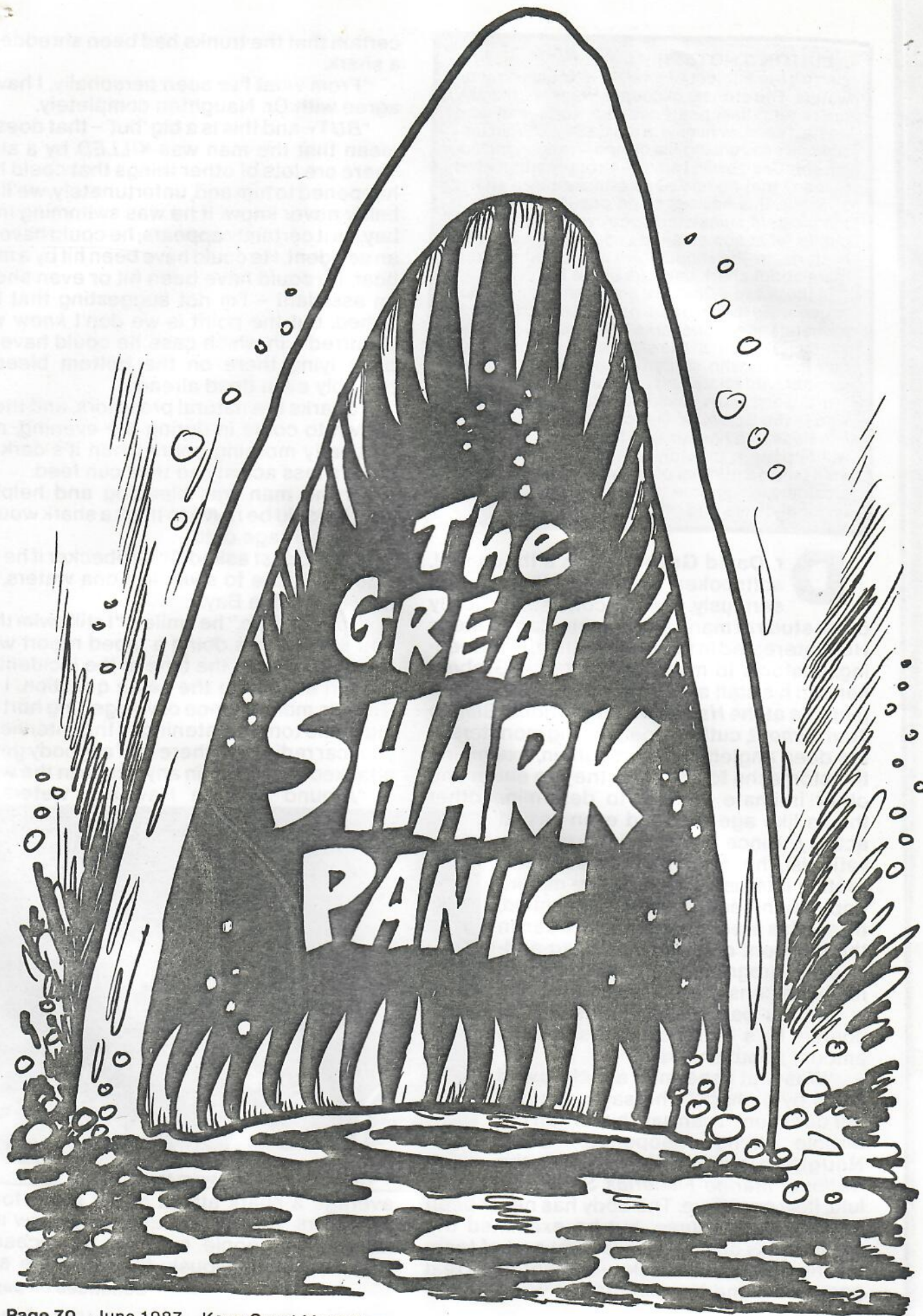
On weather grippers who experience a slight rain while fishing: "The fish don't care, they're already wet. Go eat your Wheat Thins and enjoy yourself." — **Red Danner**, 1987

"Twenty years ago he paid me \$6.50 a day and I had to clean the boat, but **Rick Rose** is still the best man I've ever fished with."

— **Capt. Mark Hanson** 1987

*Sorry, but the scheduled interviews with **Jack Hall** and Kona's most notorious deckhand will appear in next month's issue. Because of busy workloads and insane fishing tournament banquets, neither they nor I were in proper shape for the commentaries planned.*

**KC**



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the first of two articles on the subject of sharks in Kona's coastal waters. The stories, of course, were sparked by the recent disappearance of a Kona man who was last seen swimming in Kailua Bay. The circumstances surrounding his disappearance - including shredded swim trunks - strongly suggested to many that he had been attacked by a shark.

While this has not been positively verified, the incident stimulated controversy among the public, what some called sensationalism, even hysteria, in the media, and some widespread fears about shark dangers in the Kona area.

In these two pieces, we are attempting neither to generate further fears nor whitewash the potential dangers of sharks. We hope instead to shed more light on the subject, as seen by various people who study or personally come in contact with sharks on a regular basis.

In this first part, we talk to Dr. **David Grobecker**, who is the Scientific Director of *Pacific Gamefish Research Foundation*. In the second, which will appear in the July edition of *Kona Coast*, we'll talk to a number of veteran shark-watchers, including long-time Kona fishermen, professional divers and other experts.

**D**r. **David Grobecker** is a thoughtful, softspoken man who takes his job seriously. His job consists basically of the study of marine life, now in Kona waters. He's interested in the habits of fish, from feeding, customs to migratory patterns. Grobecker and his staff are the people you often see pierside at the *Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament*, cutting open the big monsters of the deep anglers have brought in, examining the stomachs to see what they've eaten and other intimate innards to determine other things like age, sex and even sexual activity. Since he also is a conservationist, he naturally has a strong rooting interest in keeping the marine population healthy. With this in mind, he and his predecessors have been in the forefront of urging more tag-and-release programs here, and they've met with considerable success.

And as part of his profession, of course, he's learned a considerable amount about sharks.

"Was that fisherman attacked and killed by a shark?", he says, echoing our question. "I can say this. When the terrible thing happened, **John Naughton**, who's a biologist with the *National Marine Fisheries Service* in Honolulu, flew over here. The body has never been recovered, of course, but he examined the swim trunks and he knows what sort of tears and rips shark teeth make - Naughton's a real good pro - and he said that he was 90-95%

certain that the trunks had been shredded by a shark.

"From what I've seen personally, I have to agree with Dr. Naughton completely.

"**BUT** - and this is a big 'but' - that does not mean that the man was *KILLED* by a shark. There are lots of other things that could have happened to him and, unfortunately, we'll probably never know. If he was swimming in the bay, as it certainly appears, he could have had an accident. He could have been hit by a motor boat, he could have been hit or even shot by an assailant - I'm not suggesting that happened, but the point is we don't *know* what occurred - in which case he could have just been lying there on the bottom bleeding, possibly even dead already.

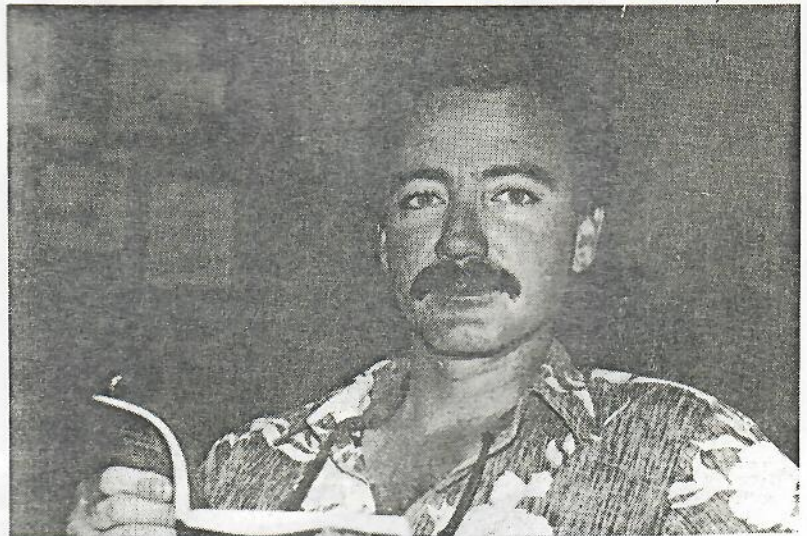
"Sharks are natural predators, and they're known to come in during the evening, night and early morning hours when it's dark and there's less activity so they can feed.

"If the man was bleeding and helpless, well, it would be naive to think a shark wouldn't take advantage of it."

*Kona Coast* asked Dr. Grobecker if he considered it safe to swim in Kona waters, particularly Kailua Bay.

"I swim there," he smiled. "I still swim there. You know, I was doing a taped report with a radio reporter at the time of the incident and the girl asked me the same question. I said 'There's more chance of you getting hurt driving home tonight listening to this interview on your car radio than there is of anybody getting attacked by a shark in *any* ocean in the world.'

"Around here in Hawaiian waters, we



**Grobecker:** "I still swim there."

average a shark attack about every four or five years. When you think about how many millions of people swim in the ocean off Hawaii, well, obviously the odds are astro-

**Continued on page 73**



SHARK from page 71

onomically in your favor. And Kona waters especially are extremely safe, certainly among the safest in the whole state. That's because the Big Island is so new that there's really been no reef structure built up. The shelf just drops off to deep water. It's simply not a good habitat for sharks.

"Look at the gamefishing around here. I've worked in the Cook Islands, for instance, and seen a lot of ahi fishing down there. By the time the angler got the fish to the boat, practically every one of them had been at least partially mutilated by sharks. In these waters, it's relatively uncommon, unless the marlin or whatever is too big to get in the boat or something and they have to tow it in or tie it to the transom, usually bleeding."

How does Dr. Grobecker feel about "selective fishing" to eliminate sharks? Some people have written letters to the editor complaining that such activities will upset the "ecological balance" among marine creatures. Will it? Is it effective?

Grobecker smiles. "That's sort of a controversial issue, isn't it? Let me answer this way. After the swim trunks and other paraphernalia—the dive mask and swim fin—were found, friends of the victim caught that big tiger shark, about 11'2" long and, what was it, 740 pounds? That was okay, I think, because there was a good chance that the shark's stomach would divulge some clue as to the man's fate.

"In fact, our scientific colleagues in Honolulu suggested we try to get that shark because the creatures have an unusual feature. Even though it had been some time since the man's disappearance, tiger sharks can simply shut down their digestive systems. They can actually store food within themselves and save it 'til they're hungry later, sort of like we'd put in the deep freezer.

"We were urged to fish for it right away, because human parts—if they were stored—could conceivably last two or even three weeks in the shark.

"Unfortunately, this shark threw its stomach in the struggle so, of course, we found nothing. The jaws, though, were of a size and shape and the tooth structure such that they could have definitely been the ones that made the tears in the swim trunks.

"As a regular thing, though, this shark-hunt fishing does nothing to permanently eliminate any possible shark problem. Tiger sharks, which are the most dangerous in our particular waters, are very territorial. The bigger the shark is, usually, the larger the territory it

roams in. Okay, that was a big shark that was caught. There are other sharks out there and somehow they'll know there's a territory unfilled.

"Eventually, sooner or later, another shark will take over the dead one's territory. Or the space could be filled by even two smaller sharks. Overall, 'selective shark fishing' is counter-productive."

KC

**NEXT MONTH: Part II:** How do the men in and on the open water deal with sharks? Interviews with fishermen, divers and other ocean professionals.

The **GOLDEN BEAR**  
Kona's  
Newest Eatery

**NOW OPEN**  
AND SERVING AN EXCITING MENU  
**DAILY SPECIALS**

KONA BROASTED CHICKEN  
CHARBROILED BURGERS  
SANDWICHES - SALADS - AND MORE

BAR SERVICE  
COLD DRAFT BEER  
MUG OR PITCHER



Private Room  
Available for  
Meetings or Parties

**EAT IN OR  
TAKE OUT!**  
Phone 329-7113


OPEN DAILY 10 30AM - 6:30PM DAILY  
KAIWI STREET IN THE INDUSTRIAL AREA

**NEED TO BUY OR SELL?**

**Century 21**

**ASSOCIATED REALTY, INC.**  
Post Office Box 390220, Kailua-Kona, HI 96739  
Keauhou Shopping Village

**322-0021**  
1-800-922-7653 Ext. 921  
Each office independently owned and operated





**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**  
Southwest Region • Western Pacific Program Office  
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

May 1, 1987

F/SWR1:JJN

Detective James Ferry  
Kona Police Department  
Captain Cook Station, Kona District  
Captain Cook, Hawaii 96704

Dear Detective Ferry:

Subject: Report on inspection of missing diver's (Mr. Daniel Kennedy) equipment and clothing.

As you know, I am a Fishery Biologist with the Western Pacific Program Office of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) based in Honolulu, Hawaii. I presently am the coordinator for the NMFS Habitat Protection Program in Hawaii and the U.S. Pacific Islands. Concerning shark research, my background includes working as a graduate student in the University of Hawaii's Cooperative Shark Research and Control Program conducted during 1967-69. More recently I have worked on shark research conducted in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, primarily to determine predation rates on Hawaiian monk seals and green sea turtles. My present job entails diving throughout the Hawaiian Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Micronesia and other U.S. Pacific Islands, which results in encounters with a number of shark species. Consequently, I am very interested in sharks, shark attacks and potential attacks and continually review the scientific and popular literature on the subject.

At the request of the Kona Police Department I traveled to Kailua-Kona, Hawaii on April 24, 1987 to inspect diving equipment and a pair of swim shorts recovered from an area of Kailua Bay in which a diver disappeared. The following is a brief report on the inspection and my opinion as to what may have occurred concerning this incident.

The mask, snorkel and diving fin recovered by the fire-rescue squad showed no signs of shark attack. The fin had several scrapes and scratches but these seemed to be the type caused by striking coral while swimming or walking over rugged bottom while wearing fins.

The remains of the swim shorts from the missing diver, in my opinion, showed strong evidence of having been attacked by a shark or sharks. Although there is no way I know to confirm this, I feel 90% sure that the cuts and other marks on the cloth material can be attributed to a shark.

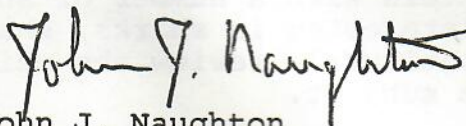


Approximately half the shorts were recovered. The cut marks which severed the shorts, and the gaps in the material between the cuts, indicate a shark of the approximate size of the tiger shark (Galeocerdo cuvieri) caught by friends of the missing diver in the early morning of April 24. I brought several tiger shark teeth with me from a shark of roughly the same size (11 to 12 feet in total length). These teeth fit closely into the individual "tooth" cuts in the shorts and particularly in a single cut in the thicker waistband of the shorts. The individual cuts looked very similar to those we have observed from shark bites on the pelage of Hawaiian monk seals.

In my opinion the cuts could not have been made by a shark attacking a loose pair of shorts drifting in the water. Rather, the shorts would have to be on or surrounding something solid, such as a person. The evidence strongly suggests that the person wearing these shorts was attacked by a shark, most probably a tiger shark, of approximately 11-12 feet in length. There is no way to determine, however, whether the shark actually killed the person or whether he had already drowned and the body subsequently attacked.

If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely yours,



John J. Naughton  
Fishery Biologist

cc: Tim Strader, Attorney at Law  
GCSW, Martin Hochman  
F/SWR, E. C. Fullerton