

# The Honolulu

**Aloha!** Friday, Oct. 23, 1992



Rick Gruzinsky displays the bite taken out of his surfboard yesterday by a large shark. Photo by Warren Bolster

## Turks invade N. Iraq to

# Advertiser

Final Edition On Oahu 35c

## Shark hunt follows North Shore attack

By Thomas Kaser  
Advertiser Staff Writer

Shark hunters are at work on Oahu's North Shore this morning, searching for what is believed to be a large tiger shark that bit a huge chunk out of a Hawaii Kai man's surfboard early yesterday.

The surfer, Rick Gruzinsky, 26, was not injured in the attack.

Early this morning, city and state shark hunters will check baited hooks that were laid in surfing spots north of Haleiwa.

"If we catch a big one, we'll consider this emergency situation over," said Capt. Jim Howe of the city's Water Safety Division. "If we don't, the task force will have to decide whether to lay out more baited hooks."

Howe said he suspects "we're

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"I was face-to-face with its head. I saw its blunt...nose and one of its eyes."

— Rick Gruzinsky

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dealing with a rather large tiger shark, and we know tiger sharks generally attack isolated swimmers, especially in the early-morning and late-evening hours."

Yesterday morning's incident occurred about a mile from

where Aloha Airlines mechanic Bryan Adona, 29, disappeared at twilight last Feb. 19 while bodyboarding alone at a popular surfing spot known as Leftovers.

Adona's bodyboard was found the next morning at Waimea Bay, about a half-mile farther north. The board had a big chunk torn out of it by what marine scientists believe was a large tiger shark.

In yesterday's incident, Gruzinsky was surfing alone at Laniakea beach, about halfway between Haleiwa Alii Beach Park and Leftovers.

He said a shark came from below, raised his surfboard out of the water, bit out a piece 16 inches wide and 9 inches deep, and disappeared.

Gruzinsky suffered only scratches on his abdomen, pos-

See Shark, Page A2

## crush Kurdish rebels

# Shark: Hunt

## FROM PAGE ONE

sibly from the jagged fiberglass edges that rubbed against his body as he paddled quickly to shore.

City lifeguards on motorized watercraft, with help from a Honolulu Fire Department helicopter equipped with a loudspeaker, told surfers, swimmers and divers from Haleiwa Alii Beach Park to Waimea Bay to stay out of the water for the rest of the day.

John Naughton, a biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service and a member of the Shark Task Force, says the attack was "almost certainly" that of a large tiger shark.

"There's an outside chance it's a great white, but tiger sharks typically attack surfboards and people on them, especially in the early-morning or late-evening hours. They spend most of the day out in deeper water, then feed in near-shore waters from dusk to dawn."

Gruzinsky, a carpenter who has lived in Hawaii 10 years, said he had been surfing alone — "something I'll never do again" — when the attack occurred at 7:50 a.m.

"I'd been out there for about 20 minutes and was lying prone on my board, waiting for a wave, when I felt some turbulence underneath. Then there was this thud and the front part of the board lifted up. I mean, this was a powerful force. I'm 170 pounds, and it was lifting me and the board up in the air.

"The board flipped and I slid off into the water, still holding onto the board and not knowing what the heck was going on. That's when I saw it was a shark.

"I was face-to-face with its head. I saw its blunt, rounded, light-brown nose and one of its eyes.

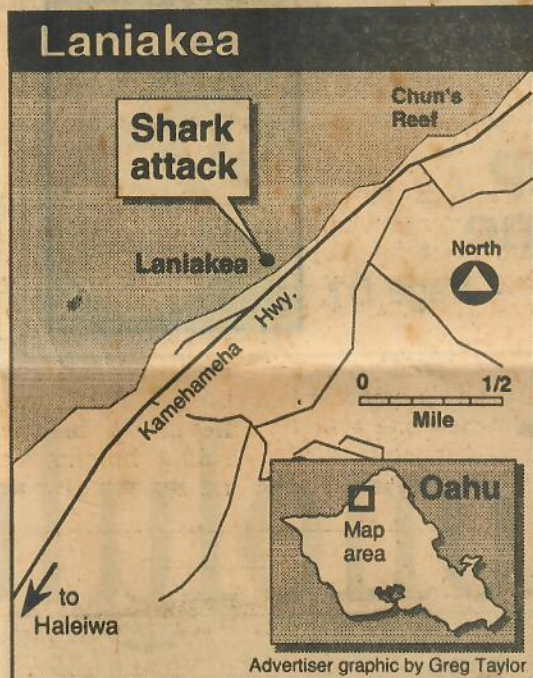
"If I had seen its teeth, I think I would have freaked out, but all I saw was that this big thing had a big bite of my surfboard in its mouth, and it was thrashing back and forth.

"I've never seen a shark while surfing, but I have seen shark documentaries on TV showing how sharks thrash food that's been offered to them. That's what this one was doing.

"For a while — probably just a few seconds — we were doing a tug-of-war for the board. Maybe that was stupid of me, but all I could think of was that I needed the board to get in to shore.

"I remember saying to myself, 'Get in, get in.' And I thought that if the shark grabbed hold of me, he would take me

# follows North Shore attack



under.

"Then the part of the board he had in his mouth broke clean off and he kind of rolled away and went down. He was gone as quickly as he came.

"As I paddled in, I kept thinking, 'He's just now realizing he only got a piece of surfboard; he's gonna come after me. Get to shore, get to shore.'"

Gruzinsky said he encountered two other surfers who were paddling out to the waves, "and I started yelling 'Shark! Shark! Go in!' They did. They turned around."

Mabelle Bastien, a surfer who was on the beach, watched Gruzinsky come ashore. "He was holding up his board, and this huge section of it was gone. He was all white and shaking; he said he thought the shark was going to get him as he was paddling in."

Lifeguards, a fire truck, an ambulance, police cars and tourists soon converged on the scene, as did Advertiser surfing photographer Warren Bolster, who happened to be in the area. Gruzinsky was treated by paramedics from the Waialua Emergency Medical Unit.

DLNR Chairman William Paty said he decided to lay out the baited hooks after several members of the task force agreed yesterday that that measure should be pursued.

"We want to emphasize that we are conducting a limited-control effort. We are going after one large animal that attacked the surfer at Laniakea. We are not

conducting a large-scale shark eradication," Paty said.

In late March, Jude Chamberlain, 37, of Haena, Kauai, escaped with only minor cuts to her left foot when she was attacked by an 8-foot shark at 6:30 a.m. while she was surfing. The shark bit the back part of her surfboard and knocked her off the board as it tried to pull it underwater. She said she paddled back to shore after the shark released the board.

Shark-hunting became a controversial topic after Martha "Marti" Morrell, 41, was killed by what is believed to have been a large tiger shark while swimming off Olowalu, Maui, in the early-morning hours last Nov. 26.

After that incident, the DLNR sent shark hunters to fish for sharks near where Morrell was swimming. Two weeks later, a 13-foot, 1,000-pound tiger shark was caught, although no human remains were found in its stomach.

Gruzinsky says he hopes yesterday's incident does not result in wholesale shark-killings.

"I don't believe in killing animals just for the sake of killing. I believe every being has a right to be in the ocean. I just wish sharks and humans could use the ocean peacefully and not have to attack each other," he said.

Gruzinsky said he noticed "a bunch" of large sea turtles in the water before he was attacked "and after I thought I had paddled over one of them."

Bob Enderson, president of the Hawaii Fishermen's Foundation, says many marine scientists think sea turtles are a primary food source for tiger sharks.

"Turtles have increased tremendously over the years because they have been an endangered species and protected. If they are left uncontrolled, more and more sharks will continue to come to the near-shore waters to feed.

"I believe it is time to allow controlled hunting of turtles in areas where they are overpopulated, as designated by the National Marine Fisheries Service."

The NMFS's Naughton says he doesn't agree "at all" with that proposal.

"Turtles are only one of the animals tiger sharks feed on. We just don't know enough about the prey-predator relationship between turtles and tiger sharks to say that controlled hunting of turtles will reduce the number of sharks. I don't favor any sort of turtle fishing."

Gruzinsky says yesterday's incident won't keep him from going back to Laniakea.

"But I won't go alone," he added.

# The Honolulu

Aloha! Saturday, Feb. 22, 1992

## Expert urges measured

By Walter Wright  
Advertiser Staff Writer

Amid mounting circumstantial evidence that a shark killed missing surfer Bryan Adona Wednesday, a leading expert on shark attacks in Hawaii yesterday called for a measured program to "cull" large tiger sharks from popular beach areas around the state.

North Shore surfers yesterday told The Advertiser they spotted a shark three feet wide churning through the waters at Leftovers surf break at about the time Adona, 29, paddled out on his body board late Wednes-

day afternoon. (See story on Page A2.)

Adona's body board was found the next day at Waimea Bay with a crescent-shaped hole in it that most experts believe was made by a large shark.

As the search for Adona continued yesterday, shark attack expert George Balazs said he believes "the tiger shark population has increased in numbers and in the maximum size of individuals in that population" to the point where giant predators roam the near-shore waters unchallenged by any foe.

Balazs, who has assembled a de-

tailed history of recorded shark attacks in the state, said he based his belief on the fact that no control or culling programs have been conducted on the tiger shark population for the last 15 years.

Balazs, who stressed he was expressing his personal opinion and not the view of the National Marine Fisheries, where he is employed as a zoologist, took a position contrasting with that of Jean-Michel Cousteau, scion of the famed ocean exploration family.

In an interview before Adona's disappearance, Cousteau said he would adamantly oppose shark hunts to cut

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## hunt for tiger sharks

down on the shark population in Hawaiian waters.

Cousteau said past shark-hunting programs didn't affect the number of shark attacks.

But Balazs said "It is my personal professional opinion that a selected culling program at high-usage beach sites around the state is a perfectly reasonable thing to do and will in no way endanger the shark population.

"I am not saying kill every dang shark, but selectively fish for the really big tigers at the main sites" to reduce the number of unopposed "apex predators" and coincidentally obtain some research information on

the sharks and their habits.

Linda McCrerey, state Department of Land and Natural Resources spokeswoman, said the agency had not decided yesterday what, if anything, to do in response to the Adona case.

"There is no evidence yet that the missing person died from a shark attack," she said. And she said some experts at shark hunting are not convinced that reducing the population will reduce attacks.

McCrerey said there is a real danger that a shark-hunting program would give the public a false sense of security.

**SHARK  
HUNTER  
...FOR HIRE**

**HAWAII FISHING NEWS**



**A HISTORY OF  
SHARK CONTROL  
IN HAWAII  
WATERS**

**SHARK ATTACK!**

**JR. PALAGAT  
LANDS HIS 4TH  
100-PLUS ULUA**

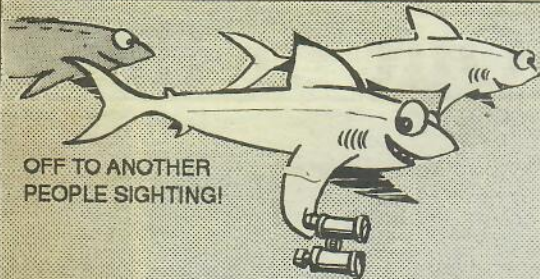
**COVER:  
VIC FAUGHNAN  
WITH A TIGER  
CAUGHT OFF MAUI  
DURING A STATE  
FUNDED SHARK CONTROL PROGRAM**

**THE VOICE OF HAWAII'S SPORT FISHERMAN**

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**Let's Control Sharks** by George Balazs

■ I want to register my personal disagreement with the view given in the editorial, "Shark attack: targeted hunt is right response" (*Honolulu Advertiser* 12/11). It was stated that it seems proper "To respond to attacks on humans with a well-targeted hunt in the area where the attack occurred."

But why wait for a tragedy to strike again, before doing something? Why not do some controlled remedial fishing now, at selected sites, like those heavily used for snorkeling, swimming and tourism, such as Olowalu? Why not take reasonable and prudent steps before hand to lessen the risk? The key word here is "control," not eradication.

The last shark control program in Hawai'i was conducted during the mid-'70s, about 15 years ago.

According to a study done at the University of Hawaii, it takes approximately 15 years for a tiger shark to grow to 10 feet in length and weigh 1,000 lbs. At that size, they have no natural enemies, except other, larger sharks.

The late Dr. Albert Tester of the University of Hawaii conducted a successful two-year shark research and control program in our coastal waters from 1967-69. At the completion of this program, Dr. Tester stressed that if fishing was not continued, the shark concentration would automatically rise again. I'm afraid we're seeing that happen right now. . . . **George**

**Shark Control Program: Why Wait?**

by Dan Baker

(reprinted from the *Honolulu Advertiser*)

■ I have followed the debate on the recent fatal shark attack on Maui with rising alarm. A recent article indicated that the state has taken the position that a control program is somehow environmentally, politically or culturally incorrect.

An absolute visionary genius would see that:

A. The tiger shark population is both growing and maturing into large, bold animals that are known to pose life-threatening hazards to swimmers, surfers, bathers and fishermen.

**SHARK CONTROL**

B. The possibility of more, and more serious, attacks is a statistical certainty.

C. When such attacks occur, when either a tourist, a surfer, a fisherman or a child is killed, perhaps in Waikiki, or Hanauma Bay, perhaps on video, that the state will be forced to reinstate the tiger shark control program that was responsible, in some measure, for the absence of fatal shark attacks in Hawai'i for the past 33 years.

When the next attack occurs, the politically correct waltzing that has prevented a rational response to this bio-hazard will disappear. What may not disappear is national and international press that could portray Hawai'i as the maneater capital of the tourist destination industry, the grief and anger of the bereaved, and disbelief and resentment that the state had to wait for a few more fatalities to do some basic resource management.

Maybe we need something like Mothers Against Maneaters here. The last big tiger shark that was pulled out of the water at 'Ewa Beach was a prominent story on last week's six o'clock news. There were literally hundreds of kids playing in the water when they reeled it in. We are seeing a real tragedy in the making here. The point is, why not institute this public safety program now before more attacks occur? . . . **Dan**



**HAWAII FISHING NEWS**



**CATCH A  
TIGER  
BY THE TAIL**  
...Exclusive interview  
with surfer turned  
shark fisherman,  
Perry Dane

**A CLOSE  
ENCOUNTER:**  
Gary Chun  
with  
bloodsoaked  
bandage  
after attack



**THE VOICE OF HAWAII'S FISHERMAN**

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# They Had A Tiger

■ It was Thursday, New Year's Eve. I was at work, and the radio was playing. All of a sudden, I heard a news flash: "A Hale'iwa fisherman captured a 15-foot tiger shark, believed to be responsible for the attack on surfer Gary Chun on the North Shore."

Later that evening, I found out the captor was well-known surfer, diver and fisherman Perry Dane. Suddenly, Perry found himself in the center of one the biggest and most controversial stories to hit the islands since Hurricane 'Iniki.

Being a North Shore resident myself, I called Perry to see if he'd be willing to grant me an interview and tell his side of the story. He agreed.

The mood was casual. I pulled up in Perry's driveway where I was greeted by his voice, "Come inside the house."

"I'm coming," I said. It was rainy and ugly outside.

**Al:** OK, Perry, what do you think about being called a "shark hunter"?

**Perry:** (Laughing) Haven't given it any thought. I fish, I dive, and I surf. What do you call that? Ocean-lover? (We both laughed.)

**Al:** Put it this way, to the point—what made you go after sharks?

**Perry:** It just got real weird out there, on the lineup. We'd be all sitting on our surfboards, a turtle would pop up, and someone would yell "shark," and I'd say, "No, it's not, it's a turtle!" Next thing I'd be looking in the water, too, keeping an eye out for something to come up and grab me instead of concentrating on waves and surfing. Then, one day I got home and my son, Dane, told me some sharks were sighted at Alii Beach Park and everyone had to clear the water. That was it! I was gonna do something.

**Al:** What about all the controversy from the religious groups?

**Perry:** Don't think I haven't given it any thought. I consulted with people like Frenchy DeSoto, Buffalo Keaulana, and people in the community, and they gave me their "blessings."

**Al:** So what then? You got your boat and some fishing poles and set out after them?

**Perry:** To be quite honest, I needed the right equipment, so I put the word out and contacted other fishermen to get some ideas. Slowly friends started showing up. One had a box of hooks; another came by with some buoys. Things just started to fall into place.

**Al:** What type of shark gear did you end up with?

**Perry:** I was trying to set up something like you would find on a flagline boat, with buoys and leaderlines that would clip on like Kona crab clips. The only difference—I was using all cable on the hookline.

**Al:** Can you recount the events that led up to the day you caught the 15-footer?

**Perry:** Well, after losing a lot of gear, my friend and fellow fisherman Antone Saito came by with 1,500 feet of mainline. So he, diving partner Dion Ripp and I went out December 30, the night before New Year's Eve. We went straight out of Hale'iwa where we heard of sightings.

**Al:** Were you in front of Kiaka Bay?

**Perry:** No, we went straight out a little past the lineup and set our lines parallel to the coastline.

**Al:** How many hooks?

**Perry:** Fifteen hooks.

**Al:** I thought I heard someone say you put a hundred out there.

**Perry:** No way! The idea was to put just enough bait to catch what was around, not put so much bait to attract more sharks.

**Al:** OK. What about the next morning?

**Perry:** Well, the water was kinda bumpy. It was 6:30 a.m., and we were trying to figure out where our lines were. We kept searching and finally found them about a quarter-mile past where we had originally set them and a little farther out. I kinda had this gut feeling something was going on 'cause we could only see a couple of floaters, and they weren't lined up parallel; instead, they were heading out to sea.

**Al:** So what then?

**Perry:** Well, we finally started to pull in the line when I spotted this fin sticking up out of the water, and just out of reaction I said, "Ahi."

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**Al:** You're nuts!

**Perry:** Yep. All seemed well. I was pulling, and I thought I had the anchor. Dion responded, "No, we've got the anchor." Antone jokingly said, "Maybe we're hooked up to another 'bomb.'" I responded, "Don't fool around. We only have three more rounds."

I was pulling and suddenly without warning I almost got pulled in the water. The line I was holding went sizzling through my hands. "Oh, my God," I thought, "we really have another one."

**Al:** Lucky none of the line was wrapped around anyone's body parts.

**Perry:** Yeah. I had this pole in the pole holder, and when the shark pulled, it yanked me into the pole, breaking it in half. Anyway, this one (the smaller of the two, a 12-footer) was really mean. We already had the buoys made up from the first one, so we did the same and let it fight the buoys.

**Al:** Then what?

**Perry:** Well, like I said, only three rounds left, and I was hoping I'd send one home soon. This guy was really mean. It bit into my boat. It latched on my spray rail—it was a trip, almost a repeat of the first one! We finally we got a rope around it and started back home. I thought the shark was still alive, just until we got outside the harbor.

**Al:** Then what?

**Perry:** Well, once we got in, we checked the stomachs. The 12-footer had remains of turtle meat and lobster. And the big one, the 15-footer, had a big chunk of turtle meat and a wild pig!

**Al:** Not surprising. That just enforces the warning that you don't want to be fooling around a river mouth, especially after a big rain. What else?

**Perry:** Well, you pretty much heard all the other stuff on the news. This is the part only Antone, Dion and I will never forget.

**Al:** Any closing thoughts?

**Perry:** Yeah, in retrospect to your question about being a "shark hunter," can I elaborate?

**Al:** Sure, the floor is yours.

**Perry:** As far as I can remember, growing up on Kāua'i, my grandmother used to tell me stories about the mano, the legends, and to respect. I was always fascinated by sharks. I can remember going fishing and coming home with a shark and saying, "Hey, let's eat it!" and everyone would say, "You crazy kid, throw it away. It stinks." It didn't matter, the shark to me was always something to behold.

I caught this 11-footer last summer, and after that caught several smaller ones and let them go, including a 9-footer just a couple of months ago, which actually my son Dane caught, and after a couple of shots with the camera we let it go. I respect the mano. I'm not a cowboy or some guy just looking for kicks. I think the title "shark hunter" should go to someone who fishes for them regularly. With me, it's different. I went out to do this because I felt I needed to. I wanted to assure my kids, myself and my community that things would be a little safer. The thought of this big fish sinking its teeth into one of my kids didn't sit too well with me, especially when we spend most of our time in the water.

**Al:** So are you going to continue?

**Perry:** I'd be out there right now 'cause I just have this feeling it isn't over. If someone was to get attacked now? I would take it personally. Taking out one or two might satisfy a few, but we know there are a lot more.

**Al:** Before we end this, do you feel you should be compensated by the state?

**Perry:** Before I answer that, can I say a couple more things?

**Al:** Sure.

**Perry:** I just would like to acknowledge my friend Art Allen, who gave me hooks, Philip's Fishing Supply, Guy Tamashiro of Tamashiro Market, who gave me bait. Thanks to all the guys and to my friends, Antone Saito and Dion Ripp.

Now about the question about compensation. Like I said, I'd be out there right now, but I need gear—cable, hooks, floaters and line. Not to mention gas. I never asked the state for anything, but if they want to, or anyone, for that matter, wants to donate, I sure would use it!

**Al:** Thank you, Perry, for your time and effort.

If any of you would like to contribute to Perry's cause, make donations to **Perry Dane, P.O. Box 1047, Hale'iwa Hawai'i 96712.**

Mahalo.

... Al

■ The fact that one of Hawai'i's best watermen today caught a tiger shark that fit the description of a "rogue" seen numerous times inside North Shore surfing reefs doesn't turn Perry Dane into another "Quinn," the crusty old shark catcher in the movie "Jaws." Perry's a fisherman, diver and surfer; in fact, he's one of the best surfers in Hawai'i today and has been over the last decade. More importantly, Perry's a father, and his children play in the ocean just like he does. Simply that an aggressive shark was moving through the shore waters of their playground was all that Perry needed to make a judgement call for protection of his *keiki*, his friends and their children—a most basic response by man: to guard and defend.

A deep, cultural view of the shark held by Hawaiian and other Polynesian people almost goes directly against Perry's response to the attack(s) on the North Shore. But indiscriminate slaughter is *not* what this is about. Perry and the two men with him set their lines with the intention of removing a specific predator from the gene pool.

For years there have been stories of a large tiger

shark with a "chewed up" dorsal fin cruising just outside of the Chunn's waveline. Perry and his crew knew it was going to take luck to catch the culprit. There would be no assurance that they would catch the right shark.

DLNR boss Bill Paty's description of the shark as a "rascal" that he hoped had "left the area" was not what Perry, any other surfer, body-boarder, swimmer or diver was waiting to hear before entering the water or letting their children enter the water again.

Perry and his crew carry with them the appreciation of surfers from around the world who have used those waters and the parents of those surfers.

The scientific reasons behind why deep-water sharks are prowling the inner reefs go beyond "cuz that's where the turtles are." And that's not the discussion here. What is to be understood is that Perry acted as any man with the equipment and means would in response to a threat on life, whether his or that of someone close to him, but not in an indiscriminate manner as many others without proper insight would condone.

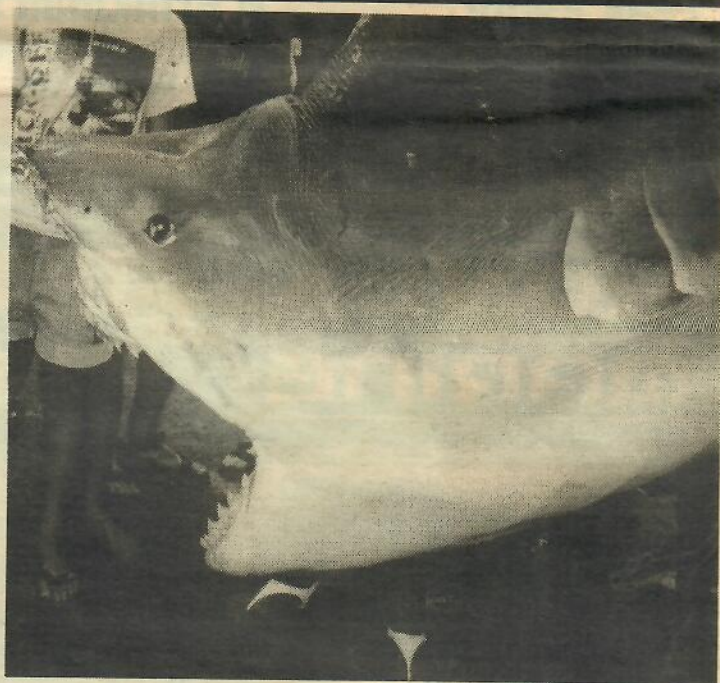
. . . **Bernie Baker**

# by the Tail

by Al Lagunte  
photos by Bernie Baker



An Indepth Interview With Surfer/Fisherman Perry Dane.



Antone and Dion looked up and said, "Shark!" As we got closer it just rested totally calm. One bad observation, though.

**Al:** What was that?

**Perry:** It wasn't hooked in the mouth; instead, it kinda got the hookline wrapped around its tail, sort of how you foul hook a marlin around its bill.

**Al:** No way! You mean you got this tiger by the tail?

**Perry:** Yeah!

**Al:** Then what?

**Perry:** Well, I was trying to think when Dion walked on the bow with this gaff and, without hesitation, he reached over this giant shark and sank this gaff right under its nose.

**Al:** What!

**Perry:** Yeah, brah, it was nuts! The shark gave one big kick and just slammed Dion onto the deck and almost pulled Dion in the water. There Dion was, yelling, "I broke my arm. I broke my arm." As I looked over the side, I could see the gaff, shark and buoys heading for the bottom. I knew then we were in for a tough one.

**Al:** You had this thing by the tail, and it was very much alive. What was the plan?

**Perry:** Well, we tied off more buoys to slow it

down. Then the work really started. Yes, it was tail-wrapped and kept pulling away from the boat. We couldn't get its head close enough for our powerhead, so Antone walked the rope under and around the boat. This put the shark at a weird angle crisscross (head on one side, tail another) instead of side-by-side. With the help of another gaff, we dragged it backward until we could get a round in. The first round did absolutely nothing. I was trying to figure out where its brain was. Two more shots, and then there was a break. Finally five rounds total, and we had it tied off to the boat.

**Al:** What was the crew's reaction to all this?

**Perry:** What you gotta remember is the whole thing lasted one hour and we still had to get the rest of our gear. The story's only starting to get good! Finally we spotted some more buoys, and we started getting to work, this time a little bit harder 'cause we had this big shark on the side, making maneuvering slow. Our mainline had been cut in several pieces. I drove and got hold of one end and started to retrieve. Dion and Antone started pulling another piece.

**Al:** You mean to tell me you didn't have a winch?

**Perry:** All this is "handline."