

# AMERICAN ELASMOBRANCH SOCIETY

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17 July 1991

Dr. George H. Balzas  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Honolulu Laboratory  
2570 Dole Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822-2396

Dear Dr. Balzas:

Many thanks for sending your updated list of Hawaiian shark attacks. I might also thank you for your earlier version - apparently my follow-up letter did not reach you. I wondered why you had not responded to certain questions I had raised!

The International Shark Attack File (ISAF) is operated by the American Elasmobranch Society (AES), a professional society of international workers studying sharks, skates and rays. The ISAF is curated by myself at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Since we are largely unfunded, the operation depends on the volunteer labor of many scientists who serve as regional observers world-wide. Regional observers forward accounts of any attacks in their areas for integration into the File. Observers retain the right to report on individual or collective attacks in their areas, and have access to the File for scientific study.

I am delighted that you are willing to cooperate with the ISAF and hope that you will accept my formal invitation to serve as the Hawaii representative.

In reviewing your comprehensive list I note that you have compiled an extensive bibliography. I would particularly appreciate receiving a copy of the literature cited so that we might attempt to acquire these references to add to the File. Perhaps you might have access to many of these and might facilitate making copies.

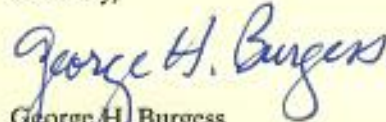
I am asking my colleague, Jeff Carrier, to run a search on our computerized data base to compare the ISAF pre-1968 Hawaii data with yours. I will forward you a copy. Post-1968 data has not yet been synthesized and entered into the computer because of lack of funding.

Enclosed please find a copy of our standard questionnaire; please note that it is rather lengthy and only serves as a guide to the types of questions that can be asked, since each case is somewhat different. If you have additional documentation such as newspaper clippings, photographs, medical reports, autopsies, etc., these can be included as well. We also archive audio and video tapes of recorded interviews and site activities.

As an aside, I note that you are not a member of AES. Your obvious interest in sharks suggests that you might find membership in our organization useful. If you are interested, you can contact treasurer Linda K. Martin at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, 886 Cannery Row, Monterey, CA 93940-1085.

I am looking forward to working with you on shark attack.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George H. Burgess". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "G" and "B".

George H. Burgess  
Director,  
International Shark Attack File