

**ACTIVITY:** Swimming

**CASE:** [GSAF 2003.10.05.a](#)

**DATE:** Sunday October 5, 2003

**LOCATION:** The incident took place off Cove Beach near Kamaole Beach Park, Maui, Hawaii, USA.

**NAME:** Clara Alo

**DESCRIPTION:** She is a 41-year-old female from Waiehu, Maui.

**BACKGROUND:**

**MOON PHASE:** Waxing Gibbous, 78% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated. Full Moon October 10, 2003.

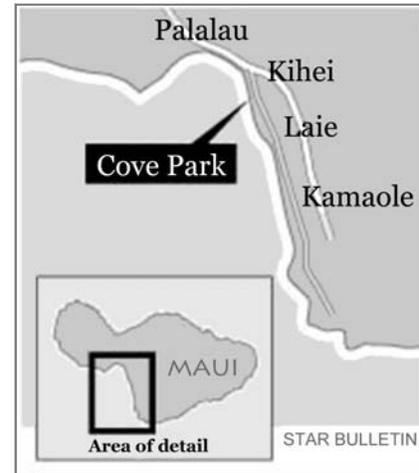
**SEA CONDITIONS:** The water was turbid.

**ENVIRONMENT:** There was a gill net in the area.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 10 to 30 yards

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Four to five feet

**TIME:** 12h55



**NARRATIVE:** Clara Alo was swimming when the small shark nipped her knee and scraped her thigh. She pushed the shark away and swam to the beach.

**INJURY:** Her right knee was bitten and her left thigh abraded by the shark's hide. She sustained a laceration to her right index finger as she pushed the shark away.

**TREATMENT:** She was treated at the scene for minor injuries and puncture wounds to her knees, then received further treatment at Maui Memorial Hospital and released.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** Not identified. The swimmer said the shark was grey-colored and about four feet in length. State officials closed the beach for the remainder of the day, reopening it at noon on Monday. Randy Honebrink, spokesman for the state Shark Task Force, said the unattended fishing net may have attracted the shark to the area. But given the limited description of the shark, he said it would be difficult to determine what kind of shark it was since the description could fit half a dozen sharks.

**NOTE:** The State Department of Land and Natural Resources closed the beach fronting Cove Park and other beaches in a two-mile radius, including the Kamaole Beach Parks and Kalama Beach Park for five hours. They were reopened at about 18h30 (6:30 p.m.)

**SOURCES:** Gary Kubota, Star Bulletin, *et al.*