

ACTIVITY: Free Diving
CASE: [GSAF 2006.02.23](#)
DATE: Thursday February 23, 2006
LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean off Makena, Maui, Hawaii, USA.
Latitude: 20°39', Longitude: 156°27'



NAME: Anthony Moore
DESCRIPTION: He was a 45-year-old male from San Jose, California, an engineer at Code Green Networks of Sunnyvale. He was a well-conditioned, athletic and experienced diver and a strong swimmer.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waning Crescent, 27% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated.

SEA CONDITIONS: While recovery efforts were in progress on Friday, Rich Jurgens, owner of Maui Kayaks, said, "The conditions were incredible today; the water was beautiful, the visibility was excellent, there were no waves, very minimal surf. It was a premium day to kayak." Some area residents, who gathered near Makena Landing said conditions had been good Thursday afternoon as well. After talking to others who had been in the water in the area Friday, Jurgens said no one had seen anything unusual.

ENVIRONMENT: The diver intended to free dive at Five Graves, a popular snorkeling site about a mile offshore that features underwater caves and a large population of sea turtles.

TIME: Probably some time between 15h30 and 16h30

NARRATIVE: Moore left to go diving about 15h00 [3 pm] Apparently he was trying to reach a depth of 100 feet at the dive site using a snorkel and regular swim fins during his Thursday evening dive. Although he was diving alone, he had left a detailed "float-plan" with his wife, Lorraine. He was expected home at 17h00 [5 pm], and when he failed to return his wife reported him missing at 18h58 [6:58 pm]. At 19h30 [7:30 pm], Moore's rental car, was found about in a parking lot at Makena Landing.

At 19h54 [7:54 pm], the Maui Fire Department's Air One rescue helicopter began a search the shoreline and ocean from Makena Landing to Big Beach. A Coast Guard 25-foot rigid hull boat from the Maalaea station, a C-130 aircraft and a Dolphin helicopter with night-vision capabilities also joined in the search which continued until 23h15 [11:15 pm]. Air One resumed the search at dawn on Friday, with fire department divers also searching for the missing man.



When Maui Kayaks tour guide Chris Corbat took off from Makena Landing early Friday morning he noticed helicopters and watercraft searching the area but was unaware they were searching for the missing diver. His tour group went north along the coastline and at 08h00 was heading back toward Makena Landing when he found human remains in the water about 100 to 150 yards off the Five Graves area near the Makena Surf condominium project. Corbat signaled a Maui Dive Shop boat in the area whose crew retrieved the remains and notified the Coast Guard. At 11h30, rescue crews recovered additional remains with gear matching that worn by the missing diver. The remains were taken to the Maui Memorial Medical Center morgue. The coroner's office received three different sections of remains: a pelvis and lower extremities. A Coast Guard official said Saturday that Moore's wife identified her husband by a lanyard that included his rental car key.

INJURY: Although the diver's body had been bitten by a shark, a preliminary autopsy conducted on Saturday by a forensic pathologist failed to conclude that the shark bites were the cause of death. "There was no clear indication that he was alive at the time he was bitten," Dr. Anthony Manoukian, a forensic pathologist said after the two-hour autopsy at the morgue at Maui Memorial Medical Center. "We're not able to determine the cause of death. The fact that the kidney was congested with blood indicated that Moore probably drowned and was then attacked by sharks, as opposed to bleeding to death while alive." It was thought that Moore may have suffered a shallow water blackout, a sudden loss of consciousness as a free-diver ascends to the surface.

SPECIES: According to Dr. Manoukian, more than one species of shark may have bitten the body. Although white sharks have been seen in recent months off Hawaii, Dr. Manoukian said, "we have no evidence that it was anything other than a tiger or reef shark."

"No sharks were spotted in the area or near the area" where the remains were recovered, said acting Battalion Chief Jack Williams of the Maui Fire Department, which had rescue personnel aboard the Air One helicopter and in a rescue boat and doing surface dives in the search area.

SOURCES: KESQ News Channel,
<http://www.kesq.com/Global/story.asp?S=4553883&nav=9qrx> <http://www.khnl.com/Global/story.asp?S=4550616>;

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