

Kaleo Roberson holds the surfboard that he thrust into the mouth of a tiger shark



ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2014.10.18

DATE: Saturday October 18, 2014

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean at the surfing site known as "Freight Trains" at Maalaea, South Maui, Hawaii, USA.

NAME: Kaleo Roberson

DESCRIPTION: He is a 39-year-old male, and a professional surfer. He is 6'3" and weighs about 220 lbs. Roberson has been surfing for 30 years and said this is the first time he has had a close encounter with a shark.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sky was overcast. At 11h48, Kahului recorded 10-mile visibility and light rain. The air temperature was 78.8°F, dew point 75.2°F, humidity 89%, sea level pressure 29.99 inches and wind direction was North at 3.5 mph. Hurricane Ana was moving parallel to Hawaii heading west with sustained winds of 80 mph. By early Sunday, the center of the hurricane was about 120 miles south of Kauai and 125 miles southwest of Honolulu.

MOON PHASE: Waning Crescent, 22% of the Moon was illuminated. Last Quarter, October 15, 2014

SEA CONDITIONS: There was a south swell, and the surf off the Lualoa Condominium Resort was three to four feet in height at the time of the incident. The very murky and dirty water was result of Hurricane Ana. Next day, a flash flood watch and high surf advisory was in effect for Maui, ahead of waves predicted to be in the 10-to 14-foot range.

ENVIRONMENT: At around 14h00 on the day of this incident, lifeguards confirmed an

aggressive 12-foot shark in waters off Maili Beach Park in Waianae. Two sea turtles and a monk seal were nearby when the shark bit the surfboard.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 yards from the condominiums

TIME: 11h15

NARRATIVE: Kaleo Roberson was in the water with about 20 other surfers. He was sitting on his surfboard near his three sons, 6-year-old Steve, and 8-year-old twins Justin and Eric. Jaon Brumbaugh and his 10-year-old twins Charlie and Ethan Brumbaugh, were nearby. When Roberson saw the shark coming straight at him from 10 to 15 feet away, he said that he moved a leg and stuffed his surfboard into the shark's mouth. "The thing was so close to me I looked right down the throat." he said. I don't care if this thing bites me, but if my pride and joys are making it to the beach safe, then I'll feed this thing my leg if I have to," he recalled thinking. Roberson said then he used his board to hit the shark twice before it spun around and swam away. I

Kahului resident John Patao, a friend of Roberson, said he was taking photos of his son and others surfing when he saw the attack. Patao said he was about 5 feet away from Roberson and said that "everyone went into survival mode." "I just seen [Roberson] punching the shark," he said. "The shark was attacking him and bit his board one time and after that the shark was circling him. He was worried more about the kids than anything else. I got his other kid and pushed him in and then I hopped on Kaleo's board and piggy-backed him and we both swam in. We were yelling for everybody to get in because we were worried about the kids."

Officials shut down a two-mile stretch of shoreline as they would searched for the shark. Beaches between McGregor's Point and Kealia Beach Pond will be remain closed until at least 12h00 next day and will be reassessed by Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources at that time.

INJURY: No injury, but the surfboard was bitten.

SPECIES: The incident involved a 12 to 14 foot shark, possibly a tiger shark.

SOURCES: Maui News, October 19, 2014,

<http://www.mauinews.com/page/content.detail/id/590981/Surfer-escapes-shark-attack-at-Freight-Trains-.html?nav=5161>

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