

**ACTIVITY:** Diving

**CASE:** GSAF 1981.11.09

**DATE:** Monday November 9, 1981

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean off La'au Point, Moloka'i, Hawaii, USA.

**NAME:** Leo A. Ohai

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 59-year-old male and owner of the fishing vessel, the *Libra*.

**NARRATIVE:** He was untangling crab trap line from the propeller of his fishing vessel,

**INJURY:** His right hand was bitten by the shark.

**SPECIES:** The incident involved a 2.1 m [7'] shark with "a very flat head" that had followed the boat for three days. A tooth fragment was recovered from the man's hand.

**SOURCES:** The Capital, Thursday, November 12, 1981

Jim Borg, page 75

Leighton Taylor (1993), pages 104-105



HONOLULU — Excitement and risks are a way of life for *Leo A. Ohai*, who has survived a plane crash at sea, a boat fire, and the bends. Now Ohai has added a shark attack to his lit of adventures.

The shark had been trailing Ohai's fishing vessel, the *Libra*, for several days. On Monday, a crab trap caught in one of the boat's propellers. When Ohai dove to cut the line, the shark moved in.

"It wasn't a big shark," Ohai said Tuesday from his hospital bed. "I thought the best thing to do was go straight for him. I would never turn my back on a shark."

He managed to fend off the shark with a knife, but suffered a bite on his right hand. Doctors later removed a piece of shark tooth.

Ohai, 59, has been distinguished as a "living treasure" of Hawaii by a Buddhist mission for his mastery of one traditional Hawaiian art, deep-sea fishing.