

**ACTIVITY:** Diving / Spearfishing

**CASE:** GSAF 1982.02.07.b

**DATE:** Sunday February 7, 1982

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean off Elliott Key, Biscayne National Park, Miami-Dade County, Florida, USA.

**NAME:** Kim Seibel

**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 29-year-old male from Homestead, Florida. He was an experienced, but uncertified, diver.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, February 8, 1982

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

**ENVIRONMENT:** Elliott Key is the northernmost of the true Florida Keys and the largest key north of Key Largo. It lies east of Homestead, Florida. Lifeguards on Crandon Park Beach off Key Biscayne ordered bathers out of the water on February 13 when 300 migrating sharks were spotted in shallow waters.

**DEPTH OF WATER:** 70 feet

**NARRATIVE:** Seibel and a companion entered the water from a small boat and became separated. Seibel failed to surface. Despite several intensive searches, only his equipment was recovered. His mask, fins and bathing suit were recovered. Marine Patrol investigator Bob Douglas believed the markings on the gear and shredded bathing suit indicated Seibel was bitten by a mako shark. Dr. Gordon Hubbell also examined the diver's equipment but would only say that "it's a possibility" the markings were made by a shark.

**SOURCE:** Valley Independent, Wednesday, February 24, 1982

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Electa Pace, Florida Shark Attack File

## **Former area man may be shark victim**

**MIAMI (UPI) —** Teeth marks on a diver's mask, flipper and bathing suit of a former Greensburg, Pa., man have convinced Florida Marine Patrol officials that a Mako shark attacked the man while he was spearfishing.

The body of Kim Seibel, 29, of Homestead, Fla., formerly of Greensburg where his father still resides, has not been recovered. But Marine Patrol investigator Bob Douglas said Tuesday the markings on the gear and the shredded bathing suit indicated Seibel was attacked by a Mako.

"After I saw the gear, there was no doubt in my mind the damage was the result of a shark bite," said Douglas. "The manner in which it was severed didn't leave any doubt in my mind."

Mako sharks usually travel alone and seldom venture into shallow water. But south Florida's warm waters are now filled with bait fish, contributing to a recent rash of shark sightings along the tourist-packed beaches.

Lifeguards on Crandon Park Beach off Key Biscayne ordered bathers out of the water Feb. 13 when 300 migrating sharks were spotted in shallow waters. A few days later, a smaller school of sharks was spotted in the same area.

Seibel, an experienced but uncertified diver, has been missing for two weeks. Seibel and a companion jumped from a small boat in 70 feet of murky water off Elliott Key on Feb. 7. The two became separated and Seibel never surfaced.

Several extensive searches followed, but only Seibel's equipment was found.

Dr. Gordon Hubbell, a Metrozoo veterinarian and shark expert who examined the equipment, would say only that "it's a possibility" the markings were made by a shark.

"We're still hoping something will turn up somehow," said Raymond Seibel, 53, the victim's father who lives in Greensburg, Pa. "But they have come to the conclusion that it was a shark."