



ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 1989.04.03](#)

DATE: Monday April 3, 1989

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean at Ho'okipa Beach, Pa'ia, Maui, Hawaii, USA.

NAME: Sam McLain

BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT: Ho'okipa has some of Maui's most advanced surfing conditions and huge waves. The beach is very rocky with strong ocean currents and a deep channel. There is a long rock ledge that runs for most of the width of the beach.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 50 yards.

NARRATIVE: Sam McLain was paddling on his surfboard in white water near the rocks when he felt a sharp "tug" on his leg.

INJURY: The surfer sustained a four-inch long crescent-shaped laceration to his calf.

TREATMENT: Some 13 stitches were needed to close the wound.

SPECIES: Not identified.

SOURCES: Jim Borg, page 77; Leighton Taylor (1993), pages 108-109