

ACTIVITY: Snorkeling

CASE: GSAF 1991.11.26.a

DATE: Tuesday November 26, 1991

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean at Olowalu, Maui, Hawaii, USA.

NAME: Louise Sourisseau

DESCRIPTION: Female

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 71% of the Moon was illuminated
New Moon, December 5, 1991.

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was somewhat murky.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 yards, near the reef edge.

DEPTH: 10-15 feet

TIME: 09h00

NARRATIVE: The shark brushed past her, then attacked and killed her companion, Marti Morrell.

INJURY: Louise Sourisseau's right calf was abraded by the shark.

SPECIES: The incident involved a tiger shark, estimated to be eight to 11 feet [2.4 to 3.4 metres] in length.

SOURCES: Balszs, page 80; James Borg, pages 1-3; Alex MacCormick, page 151; Leighton Taylor (1993), pages 112-113



Olowalu, Maui

Shark worshipers derail search for man-eater

LOWALU, Hawaii (AP) — State officials suspended a search for a shark that killed a woman swimming near her home after a search team was threatened by a group of native Hawaiians who consider sharks gods.

Marti Morrell died after being attacked Tuesday by a 15-foot shark. Two Maui fisherman hired by the state to search for the shark quit Thursday and officials suspended the search shortly afterward.

"I am no longer involved in this project," said James StegmueLLer. "There is heavy opposition from the Hawaiian community regarding this effort."

StegmueLLer and Steve Thompson said they were threatened Wednesday night by a group of men who vowed to hurt them if they killed any sharks. Many native Hawaiians view sharks as personal or family gods,

State officials said the hunt would not resume before Monday.

Beaches in the Olowalu area of Maui, which were closed after the attack, have been reopened, but a Coast Guard warning to boaters remained in effect Friday.

*News-Journal (Daytona Beach),
Saturday November 30, 1991, page 2A*