

ACTIVITY: Diving for pen shells
CASE: GSAF 1992.02.14
DATE: Friday February 14, 1992
LOCATION: The incident took place off Matsuyama, Ehime Prefecture, Japan.
33°51'N, 132°40'E

NAME: Koji Harada
DESCRIPTION: He is a professional diver.

BACKGROUND
MOON PHASE: Full Moon, February 18, 1992

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was turbid and underwater visibility was about one metre.

ENVIRONMENT: On January 3, 1992, a five-metre white shark approached a pen shell diver in almost the same area.

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: The diver was at a depth of 25 metres.
TIME: Shortly before 10h00

NARRATIVE: The diver was collecting pen shells, *Atrina pectinata*. In the first approach, the large shark swam very close to him with its abdomen almost touching the seabed. In the second and fourth approaches, the shark bit his steel helmet three times. The diver recalled seeing “large teeth” coming toward him and he quickly turned his helmet to the direction of the shark to protect the soft parts of his diving suit. The shark disappeared and the diver was taken aboard the support boat.



Atrina pectinata.

INJURY: The diver was not injured, but there were bite marks on his steel helmet.

SPECIES INVOLVED: The diver estimated the shark was five metres total length.

REPORTED BY: Kazuhiro Nakaya, Laboratory of Marine Zoology, Faculty of Fisheries, Hokkaido University, Japan in Nakaya, Kazuhiro (1993). A Fatal Attack by a White Shark in Japan and a Review of Shark Attacks in Japanese Waters. *Japanese Journal of Ichthyology*. 40 (1): 35-42. (see bibliography);

