

**ACTIVITY:** Scuba diving

**CASE:** [GSAF 1992.11.12.R](#)

**DATE:** Reported November 12, 1992

**LOCATION:** The incident took place off the Wakaya Island Resort, Fiji.

**NAME:** Chad Smith

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 30-year-old male, an experienced scuba diver, and a professional drummer with the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

### **BACKGROUND**

**ENVIRONMENT:** Wakaya Island is a five-square-mile island, a luxury resort with only nine beach-front bures.

**NARRATIVE:** Smith was on vacation following the Red Hot Chili Peppers' tour of Australia. He was diving offshore when the shark began circling him. Smith attempted to keep still as the shark approached, then fended it off when it attempted to bite him. Afterwards, the shark swam away.

**INJURY:** The shark removed a "small chunk of skin" from the diver's left arm.

**SPECIES:** The incident involved a hammerhead shark, said to be three metres in length.

**NOTE:** It was also reported that Smith had a run-in with a shark three weeks earlier while scuba diving south of Sydney during the Australian tour. That incident was apparently kept quiet "to avoid panic during the Chili Peppers' Australian tour".

**SOURCE:** Herald Sun, Thursday November 12, 1992, page 39



*Chad Smith*



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