



Map from Ambrose

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 1994.11.13

DATE: Sunday November 13, 1994

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean at Hanalei on the north shore of Kauai'i, Hawaii, USA.

NAME: Kathleen Lunn

DESCRIPTION: She is a 34-year-old female.

SURBOARD: The surfboard was nine feet in length.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: It was a hot, sunny day.

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, November 9, 1994. Full Moon, November 17, 1994

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was murky with sediment flushed from the Hanalei River.

ENVIRONMENT: The incident took place on the edge of the channel.

DEPTH OF WATER: 30 feet

TIME: 09h45

NARRATIVE: Kathleen was surfing with her three children: 16-year-old Melanie, 14-year-old Koral and 12-year-old Stephen. She was paddling over the shoulder of a wave when the shark lifted her surfboard, then bit into the right side of the board and her thigh. She sat up on the tail of her board and swung it out, hit the shark and it disappeared. Kathleen paddled over to her children, told them what had happened and they followed her in to shore. She also told some of the 40 other surfers at lineup, but all decided the waves were worth the risk and they remained. When she reached knee-deep water, she walked ashore.

INJURY: Two-inch laceration to the thigh.

DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT: There was a perfect crescent of teeth marks on the surfboard.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Kenny Doudt (GSAF Case 1979.11.27) was in the parking lot when Kathleen appeared with her bleeding leg and surfboard. He lifted his t-shirt, showing her the scars he received from a white shark, and she considered herself fortunate to have a relatively minor bite. Kathleen's husband drove her to the Hanalei Fire Station where firemen treated the bite and suggested that Kathleen go to Wilcox Hospital near Lihu'e (an hour distant) so the wound could be sutured. The wound was stitched at the hospital and she was discharged the same day.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified. According to the surfer, the shark was about nine feet in length.

SOURCES: Kenny Doudt; George Balazs; Greg Ambrose, pages 24 - 29