

ACTIVITY: Diving

CASE: GSAF 1995.05.31

DATE: Wednesday May 31, 1995

LOCATION: The incident took place at Sai Kung, east of Kowloon, Hong Kong.

NAME: Tso Kam-Sun

DESCRIPTION: He was a 44-year-old male, a teacher who had represented Hong Kong as a swimmer in the 1970 Asian Games.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, May 29, 1995

NARRATIVE: No details. He was reported missing.

INJURY: Fatal. Mr. Tso's body was recovered off nearby Siu Chuk Lam, near Silverstrand. His right leg had been severed.

REPORTED BY: John Wong, Global Shark Accident File

SOURCES: New Straits Times, Saturday June 3, 1995, page 14 and Los Angeles Times, June 4, 1995

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Andrew Currie, GSAF



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Another swimmer killed by shark in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, Fri. — A swimmer was killed by a shark off a Hong Kong beach today in the second death from a suspected shark attack in three days, police reported.

Police said the latest victim, a 29-year-old man, was attacked while swimming with a companion. The Government-owned Radio Hong Kong quoted a witness as saying that the victim sustained massive injuries to both legs.

Yesterday, the body of 44-year-old teacher Tso Kam-sun, who represented Hong Kong in the 1970 Asian Games in swimming, was found off a different beach in the same Saikung district in the New Territories re-

gion bordering China. He was reported missing on Wednesday after he went diving.

Police said Tso's right leg was bitten off.

Two swimmers were killed by sharks in Saikung beaches in 1993. A Hong Kong newspaper at the time hired an Australian shark-hunter to catch the killer but he returned home empty-handed after a week.

Following the two latest attacks, shark terror has gripped Hong Kong.

Just before the second shark attack, an alert was sounded at another beach in the rural Sai Kung peninsula as a government helicopter and police boat searched the waters for sharks, local radio said.

The return of real-life *Jaws* came as Hong Kong enjoyed its annual Dragon Boat races, in which rowers in colourful boats — cheered on by big crowds — compete off the many beaches under the summer sun.

The latest attacks triggered fears that the shark that fatally bit two swimmers in 1993 might have returned to the territory. — Agencies

Diver killed in shark attack

Editor's note: This article was originally written in 1995 but was reposted by a reader on Facebook the week of May 14, 2013. SCMP.com editors decided to add the original date of publication at the foot of the article to clear up any confusion. As a result of this change, the article also displays today's date as an update.

A FORMER Hong Kong swimmer in the Asian Games found dead in the water off Sai Kung yesterday is thought to have been killed by the same shark that terrorised the area two years ago to the day. His right leg had been bitten off up to the waist.

Tso Kam-sun, 44, a physical education teacher at Kau Yan College in Tai Po, had failed to return home from diving on Tuesday night. His wife and some school colleagues found his car at 2 pm yesterday at a car park at Hang Hau, Siu Chung Lam, close to Silverstrand beach. His colleague and fellow diving enthusiast, Ho Hing-kam, found Tso's body, still in full diving gear, in three metres of water off the beach.

Fire Services divers retrieved the body at 5 pm. Tso was a member of the YMCA swimming team and a Hong Kong representative at the Asian Games in 1970, close friends said.

Shark experts said the same shark that killed two swimmers in Sai Kung two years ago might have returned. 'It is too much of a coincidence,' fisheries officer David Cook said. 'This is a real worry and it is fitting into a pattern. Anyone who goes into the water goes in at their own risk.' Exactly two years ago to the day, hair salon owner Yan Sai-wah, 42, was killed while swimming off Sheung Sz Wan. A leg had been torn off. Barely two weeks later, Kwong Kong-hing, 61, ignored the shark warning and was killed in an early-morning attack at Silverstrand beach. His arm and leg were bitten off.

A woman reported missing a month earlier was also believed to have been taken by a shark. In 1991, a 65-year-old woman was killed by a shark at Silverstrand. Local divers yesterday reported seeing large schools of tuna near Double Bay, north of the Sai Kung attack site.

The presence of tuna indicates the spring migration of large ocean fish has begun. 'It could be a tiger shark moving north with the warm water and following the tuna schools,' Mr Cook said. 'If it is a great white pointer, it will be travelling south to the cooler waters of the southern hemisphere.' Tiger sharks grow to more than six metres and can weigh up to half a tonne. Shark researchers confirmed a shark would follow an annual migration pattern.

The territory has three beaches with shark nets - Clearwater Bay and Silverstrand in Sai Kung, and Kadoorie Beach, Tuen Mun.

This article first appeared in the South China Morning Post print edition on Jun 02, 1995 as Diver killed in shark attack

SOURCE: <http://www.scmp.com/article/119760/diver-killed-shark-attack>

**CHARLESTON,
ELISABETH TACEY
and MAGDALEN CHOW**

ALL Sai Kung beaches have been declared dangerous after a hairdresser was mutilated in the second fatal shark attack this week.

Witnesses said the water filled with blood seconds after Harman Lo Cheuk-Yuet, 29, screamed for help and was dragged underwater at the non-gazetted Sheung Szwan beach yesterday.

The attack happened at 2:30 pm - 24 hours after the body of the first victim was pulled from the water.

Yesterday's tragedy came only three hours after a shark was reported in the area.

The man's right thigh was mauled to the bone before he could be pulled out of the water by two men on a sampan.

The victim's friend, Lo Kwok-wai, said he heard a

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shout for help and saw the victim swimming towards the shore.

"I was with two other swimmers close to the shore and at first we thought he was drowning.

"We started swimming to him but when we were halfway there, someone yelled out that there was a shark and not to go out any further.

"We swam back and rowed out a boat but he was sinking and disappearing," he said.

"He was injured seriously and I even saw bone," he said.

Mr Lo said he had heard the shark alert on the way to the beach and had decided not to go into the deep water with his friend.

A police witness said, "I saw a pool of blood behind him as he was swimming in. But no one dared to help him.

"He lost his strength and sank."

Tseung Kwan O station sergeant Chan Kwan-shing said a sampan rushed the victim to shore and into a waiting ambulance.

"When we got to the scene, the man was nearly unconscious on the beach," he said.

Officers tried in vain to revive him on the 25-minute journey to United Christian Hospital in Kwun Tong.

Lo Cheuk-Yuet, had gone to the beach from his Yau Ma Tei home with his 27-year-old girlfriend, another female friend and Mr Lo Kwok-wai early in the morning.

His employer had planned to join them but changed her mind.

She said she had made jokes about sharks and asked them not to go.

"When I heard the news, I was very sad. I couldn't quite believe it," the salon owner said.

She criticised the Government for not sealing off the beaches after the first incident.

A Regional Council spokesman said it did not see the need to raise flags after the discovery of 44-year-old Tso Kam-sun's body on Thursday because it was only a suspected shark attack.

Although Sheung Sz Wan has no lifeguard or shark nets it was crowded with about 200 people during the attack.

Three police motorcycles had to clear a route along Clearwater Bay Road for the ambulance as holiday-makers headed for the beaches to make the most of the Dragon Boat Festival holiday.

The body of Mr Tso, a teacher, was discovered off nearby Siu Chuk Lam, near Silverstrand with his right

Big fin seen before attacks