

ACTIVITY: Body boarding
CASE: [GSAF 1997.10.28.a](#)
DATE: Tuesday October 28, 1997
LOCATION: The attack took place in the Pacific Ocean at Waiokapua Bay / Majors Bay, Brennecke Beach, Poipu, Kaua'i, Hawaii, USA.

NAME: Mike Coots
DESCRIPTION: He is a 19-year-old male.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, October 31, 1997
SEA CONDITIONS: The water was muddy.
DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 to 150 yards.
TIME: 07h20

NARRATIVE: "I was disturbing its (the shark's) feeding grounds," says Mike Coots. "We were out on the first big swell after a rain, and a little stream carrying dead fish was coming into the salt water. I think I was in the middle of a feeding frenzy."

INJURY: Both legs were bitten and his right leg was severed at mid-calf. He sustained defense wounds to his right hand.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: The surfer was in the hospital for a week. Three weeks after the attack he was surfing again.

SPECIES: 4 m to 4.3 m [13' to 14'] tiger shark.

SOURCES: Star Bulletin, Wednesday, October 28, 1998, Mirror.co.uk, November 4, 2016, <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/surfer-back-shark-infested-waters-9198172>, *et al*

NOTE: Mike Coots became an ambassador for the ocean and sharks. In 2010, he was part of the effort to pass a ban on the possession and sale of shark fins. Today (2014), he is a professional photographer whose work has been featured in The Wall Street Journal, Hawaii Magazine, Discovery Channel and more.

