

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 1999.10.01

DATE: Friday October 1, 1999

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean off Old Kona Airport State Park, Hawaii, USA.

NAME: Jesse Spencer

DESCRIPTION: He is a 16-year-old male from Kona. He is 5'5" tall, weighs 112 pounds, and is a student at Kealakehe High School.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Third Quarter, October 1, 1999

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was "clear".

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 80 yards

DEPTH OF WATER: 30 feet

TIME: 18h30 [Dusk]

NARRATIVE: Jesse Specer was just outside the reef crest and prone on his surfboard when the shark grabbed his right arm. He pulled his arm away from the shark's mouth and paddled to shore using his left arm.

INJURY: The surfer sustained severe lacerations to the upper right arm and a gouge below the elbow.

TREATMENT: The patient was taken to Kona Community Hospital and was transferred to Queen's late Saturday morning where he underwent surgery.

SPECIES INVOLVED: According to a witness, the incident involved a tiger shark about six to ten feet in length.

NOTE. Hawaii County Civil Defense officials closed the shoreline Saturday from the Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center to the area fronting Kona Bay Estates. The county helicopter conducted an aerial search for the shark, and agents from the DLNR Enforcement Division and Aquatics Division searched by boat and walking the shoreline, said DLNR Enforcement Division West Hawaii supervisor Charles Nahale. However, no shark was found Saturday, and officials said the park would reopen at 07h00 on Sunday. Authorities also advised tour boat operators and dive companies to keep their customers out of the water Saturday, Nahale said.

SOURCES: Honolulu Star-Bulletin, October 2, 1999; West Hawaii Today, October 7, 1999; Star-Bulletin News, <http://starbulletin.com:80/2000/08/02/news/whatever.html>

