

**ACTIVITY:** Windsurfing

**CASE:** GSAF 2000.08.15

**DATE:** Tuesday August 15, 2000

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean seven-tenths of a mile off Kanaha Beach near the Kahului Airport on Maui, Hawaii, USA.

**NAME:** Jean Alain Goenvec

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 53-year-old male, a visitor from Marseilles, France. An expert windsurfer, he was on a month's vacation on Maui with his wife and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Barlaud of Cannes, France. Goenvec and Barlaud had been surfing Kanaha almost daily since arriving and were planning to leave August 25.



*Jean Alain Goenvec holds the foam shoe he was wearing while windsurfing off Kanaha Beach. He says the holes the shark's teeth left in the shoe match the ones in his feet.*

### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** The wind was brisk.

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, August 14, 2000

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The water was clear.

**ENVIRONMENT:** During the weekend, D.T. Fleming Beach Park in West Maui was closed after a 15-foot tiger shark, *Galeocerdo cuvier*, was observed close to shore.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** About three-fourths of a mile to a mile offshore, beyond the reef.

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Approximately 70 feet

**TIME:** 11h50

**NARRATIVE:** Jean Alain Goenvec was trying to right his windsurf board after falling on a turn when he saw a shark swimming toward him. "I immediately climbed on my board but I felt my leg caught under the knee," he said. "I saw the upper right front of the shark's head and a part of his back. It was shaking its head. Then it let my leg go. My leg was bleeding very much and I could see a jerky flow of blood showing a cut artery."

Goenvec sat on his board and attempted to stop blood loss by tying a tourniquet around his left leg with the footmast rope. "This was not easy on account of the waves and I lost more blood than I expected," he said. Once the bleeding was under control, he waited for help from other windsurfers. He said he saw some windsurfers cruising 300 to 600 feet away, "but they did not see my emergency signs, nor hear my calls." Meanwhile, the wind was pushing him out to sea and beyond the route frequented by windsurfers.

About 30 minutes after Goenevec was bitten, he saw a windsurfer coming toward him. American Airlines pilot John Sincerbeaux was sailboarding when he saw Goenvec in the water signaling for help. "He was laying on his board, and I sailed right up to him," said Sincerbeaux. "I thought the sail came off his board, but he told me he was just attacked by a shark."

Sincerbeaux sailed back to shore and notified Joe Perez, water safety officer, who launched his jet ski and sped out to Goenvec. Perez said Goenvec was fully conscious and was able

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to cling to the rescue sled attached to the back of Perez's jet ski during the tow ashore.

**INJURY:** He sustained a severe lacerated wound to his left calf.

**FIRST AID:** Paramedics treated the windsurfer on the beach and transported him by ambulance to Maui Memorial Medical Center.

**TREATMENT:** Surgeon Sergio Lugo repaired the injury during an eight-hour surgical procedure.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** "The parts of the shark I could see were dark blue or black and I estimated its size (at) 12 to 15 feet," said Goenvec. Tooth fragments recovered from his wound implicated a tiger shark.

**REPORTED BY:** Gary T. Kubota, Honolulu Star Bulletin



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