

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 2000.09.16.b

DATE: Saturday September 16, 2000

LOCATION: The attack took place off Nikawadori beach, Hirara City, Miyako Island in Okinawa Prefecture.

NAME: Takayuki Miura

DESCRIPTION: The surfer was a 21-year-old male from Hirara.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waning Gibbous, 94% of the Moon was illuminated.

ENVIRONMENT: Miyako Island is one of a cluster of small islands at the southern end of the Ryuku chain between Japan and Okinawa.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: Reports vary: from 30 metres to 70 metres

TIME: 17h00



NARRATIVE: Takayuki Miura was surfing with friends and was sitting on his surfboard while waiting for a wave when he was suddenly dragged into the sea by a shark. Immediately afterwards, one of his friends saw the shark's fin on the surface and shouted a warning to the other surfers in the area.

FIRST AID: One of Miura's friends called an ambulance. Surfer (or paramedics) dragged Miura from the ocean and he was rushed to a nearby hospital.

INJURY: Fatal. The surfer sustained multiple bites to his left leg, right shoulder, arm and wrist. He died en route to the hospital due to massive blood loss.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Tiger shark, *Galeocerdo cuvier*. The size of the shark was believed to be 280 to 350 cm total length, estimated from the width of the bite on the surfboard and the patient's injuries.

NOTE: This was not the first such incident off Miyako Island. According to an official with the local fire department, a tourist who was swimming near a Miyako beach was attacked by a shark three or four years ago.

SOURCES: Mainichi Shimbun; Yano Kazunari (Fisheries Agency, Seikai National Fisheries Research Institute, Japan)