

**ACTIVITY:** Fishing from surfboard  
**CASE:** [GSAF 2002.09.27.c](#)  
**DATE:** Friday September 27, 2002  
**LOCATION:** The incident took place at Razers Reef off the Kahala Mandarin Hotel, Oahu, Hawaii, USA.



**NAME:** Arnold Lum  
**DESCRIPTION:** A 55-year-old male from Mo'i-li'ili.

**BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Last Quarter, September 29, 2002

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

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 100 feet beyond the reef crest

**DEPTH OF WATER:** 25 feet

**TIME:** 15h35

**NARRATIVE:** Arnold Lum was fishing from his surfboard when he hit a spot of calm water with a lot of leaves. He decided to reel in his \$7.95 lure so it wouldn't get snagged. As he reeled in the line, he saw what he thought was a big puffer fish, but then he realized it was a shark and it was headed his way.

"He starts coming at me kind of slowly with his tail swishing and does the 'Jaws' bit: puts his head up and the nictitating membrane rolls up and you could see the white of his eyes," Lum said. "So I took the rail of my board, jammed it against his nose. As a result, his nose is up in the air, his mouth is open so I shove the board and it sandwiches into its mouth." The shark bit down, taking a chunk out of his board. "Then he turns around and he whacks the tail of the board. I said, 'Screw this,' and I threw the pole in the water and just started paddling like hell."

**INJURY:** No injury.

**DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT:** Lum's board was bitten and he lost his fishing gear. "Life is too short to worry about replacing a Penn 4200SS and a Berkley rod," said Lum.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** According to Lum, the incident involved a blacktip shark, about 1.2 metres [four feet in length]. National Marine Fisheries Service biologist John Naughton said blacktip sharks don't grow larger than five feet and it's rare for one to attack a human. But he said there is a population of black tips in that area and one could have been in a feeding mode. "But he's certainly not after the guy, a shark that size," Naughton said. "We've looked at the stomach contents of that species and they don't eat big animals, they just eat fish and octopus and small stuff like that." DNR subsequently attributed the incident to a tiger shark 8 to 10 feet in length.

**REPORTED BY:** Curtis Lum and Jeff Widner, Honolulu Advertiser