

ACTIVITY: Body boarding

CASE: [GSAF 2007.08.28.b](#)

DATE: Tuesday August 28, 2007

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean near the Crouching Lion Restaurant in Ka'a'awa on the windward (North) side of O'ahu, Hawaii, USA.

21.6°N, 157.9°W

NAME: Joshua Sumait

DESCRIPTION: He is a 15-year-old male from Hauula.



BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 16h56, Kaneohe MCBH recorded mostly cloudy skies and visibility of seven miles [11.3 km]. The air temperature was 82°F [27.8°C], dew point 70°F [21.1°C], humidity 67%, sea level pressure 29.94 inches [1013.9hPa], and wind direction was NE at 6.9 mph [11.1 km/h].

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, August 28, 2007.

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was turbid.

ENVIRONMENT: Surfer Kayne Oku said he saw a six- to eight-foot shark cruising the area earlier in the day.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 400 yards

DEPTH OF WATER: Estimated 10 to 15 feet

TIME: 16h30

NARRATIVE: Before the encounter, Joshua Sumait and his three buddies had seen a "big fin" go down as they were paddling out. We didn't really think much of it, so that was a bad choice on our part," he said. "We went out anyway."

When a friend saw the shark and shouted a warning, Sumait turned and saw his foot in the mouth of the shark "My fin was in its mouth when I turned around," said Sumait. "If it were to bite, my whole foot would have been gone." The boy said the shark did not attempt to bite him; instead, he accidentally kicked the shark's teeth. Randy Honebrink of the Hawaii Shark Task Force said at first he was doubtful about the shark report, but he believes the boy after talking to him. "So the only thing that makes sense is that he kicked his foot against a single tooth in the shark's jaw," Honebrink said. The boy said he kicked the shark with his other foot to get away.

INJURY: A four-inch laceration to the heel of the right foot.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: After the shark encounter, Sumait swam back to shore, and his friends took him to the Kaaawa Fire Station where firefighters provided first aid. Afterwards his parents took him to Kaiser Moanalua Medical Center. The injury was repaired with seven sutures.

SPECIES: The incident involved a tiger shark, 10- to 12-feet in length.

SOURCE: Honolulu Advertiser, August 29, 2007,
<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2007/Aug/29/br/br0948652731.html>;

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