

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2008.09.09](#)

DATE: Tuesday, September 9, 2008

LOCATION: The attack took place in the Pacific Ocean in front of the Crouching Lion restaurant at Ka'a'awa, on the windward side of Oahu, Hawaii, USA. 21.6°N, 157.9°W

NAME: Todd Murashige

DESCRIPTION: He is a 40-year-old male from Kane'ohe. He is 5'4" and weighs 115 pounds. He is an accomplished amateur surfer who has won many local events. His latest victory came in June when he won the senior men's division of the Hawaii Amateur surfing state championships at Ala Moana Bowls.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 16h57, Ka'a'awa recorded visibility of 10 miles [16.1 km] and light rain. The air temperature was 81°F [27.2°C], dew point 69.1°F [20.6°C], humidity 67%, sea level pressure 29.92 inches [1013.1 hPa], and wind direction was NNE at 15 mph [24.1 km/h].

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, September 7, 2008

SEA CONDITIONS: conditions were good with two-foot waves.

ENVIRONMENT: Many surfers said they've seen sharks in the area before this incident. Keoni Octubre, a 27-year-old city lifeguard in Makaha who grew up in the area, mentioned that there were "many blacktips" in the area. In one interview, he said they were blacktip sharks, but another interview quoted him as saying they were blacktip reef sharks, an entirely different species. Tiger sharks also frequent Hawaiian waters. "So far we've had air one and water safety out at the scene they've been searching the area for predatory animals, did see a lot of turtles common sense...feeds on them," said Honolulu Fire Department Captain Robert Main.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 300 to 500 yards

DEPTH OF WATER: 10 feet, estimated

TIME: 16h30

NARRATIVE: Todd Murashige was surfing alone. He was sitting on his surfboard in the surf break at "Second Bowl" just off Lau Place, when the swam parallel to his board, grabbed him and pulled him into the water. The shark bit the surfer a second time on his thigh. Murashige pried the shark's mouth open and it released his leg.

Another surfer, 26-year-old Aren Souza, was about 30 feet away when he heard



SHARK ATTACKS SURFER



Todd Murashige



Murashige yell and saw “a lot of blood in the water.” He said he told Murashige to lift his leg onto his surfboard, but the man could not. Murashige began paddling quickly to shore with assistance from Souza. It took the two men five minutes to reach the beach.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources shut down Kahana Bay State Park, and the city Ocean Safety Division posted shark warning signs along the beaches in the area.

INJURY: The patient sustained a 15.7-inch laceration to his right thigh (quadriceps muscle), an 8-inch laceration to his right calf (hamstring) and smaller 1.5-inch lacerations around the ankle, with avulsion of muscle and tendons. He also sustained a laceration to his pinkie finger (defense wound) incurred when attempting to release his leg from the shark’s mouth.

DAMAGE TO BOARD: The shark removed a 12-inch long x 3-inch wide portion of the surf board. On the deck [top side] it looked like someone had cut a rectangular piece from the board. On underside of the board, the bite mark was more ragged and a spot of blood stood out on the white foam core.

FIRST AID: On the shore, Souza controlled the bleeding, wrapping the injury in a towel. Murashige was lucid when paramedics and firefighters arrived from the Ka'a'awa station. They provided emergency medical care to the surfer on the narrow beach next to Kamehameha Highway.

TREATMENT: The surfer was taken by ambulance to the Queen's Medical Center in serious condition. He was cared for by orthopedic surgeon Dr. Kevin Christensen.

SPECIES: According to Murashige, the incident involved a 10- to 12-foot tiger shark. Many turtles were seen during an aerial survey conducted shortly after the incident, and turtles are a favored prey item of tiger sharks.

SOURCES: KGMB9 News Hawaii, September 9, 2008,
<http://kgmb9.com/main/content/view/9629/40/>

Star-Bulletin, September 10, 2008
<http://starbulletin.com/2008/09/10/news/story04.html>
and September 12, 2008
<http://starbulletin.com/2008/09/12/news/story06.html>

KITV.com, September 10, 2008
<http://www.kitv.com/mostpopular/17436889/detail.html>

Honolulu Advertiser, Friday, November 14, 2008
<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/20081114/NEWS01/811140350/1001/LOCALNEWSFRONT>

NOTE: This is the second incident at Crouching Lion in less than a year (GSAF 2007.08.28.b)

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