

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2010.04.19](#)

DATE: Monday April 19, 2010

LOCATION: The incident took place at Flat Rock, Hanalei Bay on the North Shore of Kauai, Hawaii, USA. 22.2°N, 159.5°W

NAME: Jimmy Rawlinson

DESCRIPTION: He is a 68-year-old male from Anahola and has been surfing for 50 years.

SURFBOARD: He was using an eight-foot white trifin surfboard.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sky was overcast and the air temperature was in the mid 70s.

MOON PHASE: First Quarter, April 21, 2010

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea was murky with waves one to two-feet in height.

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ENVIRONMENT: The incident took place straight out to the right of the river mouth.
DISTANCE FROM SHORE: A quarter-mile
DEPTH OF WATER: Eight feet
TIME: 16h00

NARRATIVE: A shark bit Jimmy Robinson's board at the tail, pulling it under the water. As his board tilted up, Robinson slid down and landed on the shark's back. Robinson jumped off, hurriedly unfastened his leash and swam as hard as he could in the opposite direction. After a while he stopped and looked back expecting to be hit again, but saw nothing. His board was just floating and the shark was nowhere to be seen. He swam to his board, retrieved it, and continued to surf for another 45 minutes.

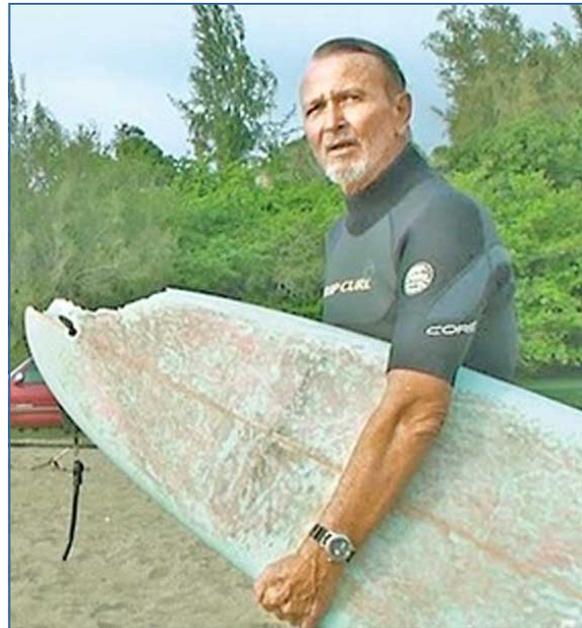
INJURY: The surfer was not injured by the shark.

DAMAGE TO SURFBOARD: See image at right.

SPECIES: Marine biologist Terry Lilley was shooting underwater video just a few yards from Rawlinson when noticed a group of turtles scatter moments before Rawlinson's board was bitten. Lilley said he believes one of the turtles swam too close to the surfer while trying to get away from the shark. "it's just purely accidental and then when [the shark] finds out it's not the turtle then it releases and splits and goes away," he said.

Lilley examined the tooth marks in the board. He said, the tooth mark spacing on board indicated it was probably bitten by a 10' to 14' tiger shark. The shark's initial bite included two of the three fins, and there still blood from the shark's mouth on the exposed foam.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Ralph Collier



Jim Rawlinson and surfboard



Shark's blood on foam of surfboard