

**ACTIVITY:** Tagging sharks

**CASE:** [GSAF 2014.06.01.a](#)

**DATE:** Sunday Jun 1, 2014

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the equatorial North Pacific Ocean at Palmyra Atoll, a territory of the United States.

**NAME:** Unknown

**DESCRIPTION:** She is a 37-year-old female, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration researcher living on Palmyra.



*Palmyra Atoll*

### **BACKGROUND**

**ENVIRONMENT:** Palmyra is a remote atoll 1,000 miles southwest of Honolulu. The atoll consists of an extensive reef, two shallow lagoons, and some 50 sand and reef-rock islets and bars covered with vegetation.

**NARRATIVE:** No details, except that she was bitten while tagging sharks.

**INJURY:** She sustained a bite to her left hand.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** The US Coast Guard evacuated the woman from the atoll. A flight surgeon determined a medical evacuation was warranted due to the risk of infection and possible nerve and tendon damage. An HC-130 Hercules airplane flew from Air Station Barbers Point to Palmyra Atoll on Sunday to pick up the patient and bring her to Oahu. An ambulance took her from Barbers Point to Kaiser Permanente Moanalua Medical Center for further treatment for further treatment.

**SPECIES:** The incident involved a blacktip reef shark.