



**ACTIVITY:** Stand-up Paddle boarding (SUP)

**CASE:** GSAF 2014.10.22

**DATE:** Wednesday October 22, 2014

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean in front of Maui Sunset off Waipuilani Beach Park, Kihei, Maui, Hawaii, USA.

**NAME:** Kim Lawrence

#### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** At 09h54, Kihei recorded partly cloudy skies and 10-mile visibility. The air temperature was 84.9°F, dew point 69.1°F, humidity 59%, sea level pressure 30.05 inches and wind direction was NW at 4.6 mph.

**MOON PHASE:** Waning Crescent, 1% of the Moon was illuminated. New Moon, October 23, 2014.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The water was brown and murky from storm runoff due to Hurricane Ana.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 200 yards

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Five to six feet



**TIME:** 10h00

**NARRATIVE:** Kim Lawrence and Terry Lee were paddling together when Lee saw the shark open its mouth and knock Lawrence off her board into the water. Lawrence said felt as if she was bucked off a horse.

The shark swam beneath Lawrence while she was in the water. She felt the shark rub against her and fearing it would bite her, she kicked it. "My instinct was to kick. So I kicked really hard with [my] heel...still trying to get on my board to get my momentum...so I stepped right off of his back to get back on my board," Lawrence said.

Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement officers closed the area from the old pier across from the old Suda Store to Kalama Beach Park. DLNR had crews at the location all day Wednesday monitoring the site and will reassess the area on Thursday to see if it is safe to reopen.

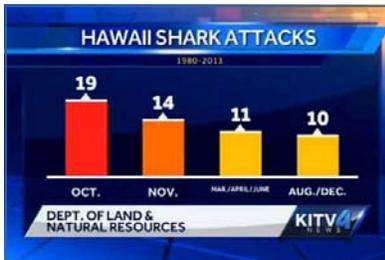
**INJURY:** No injury. According to officials with the Department of Land and Natural Resources the bite mark on the paddle board measured 14 inches.

**SPECIES:** Tiger shark. Lee said the shark's head was 24 inches in width.



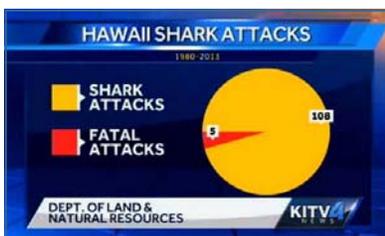
KITV interviewed Dr. Kim Holland of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology who said a look at the numbers over the past 35 years, shows shark incidents of unprovoked attacks tend to spike in the fall around Hawaii.

"The problem with shark attacks and shark sightings in Hawaii is that there are so few of them that you can't do really good statistics with small numbers.



"Tiger sharks found in our waters are busy this time of year; their mating season starts right about now, and then pupping is from the summer through right now.

"All the shark activity, doesn't always mean there will be attacks. In fact over the past 35 years, there have only been a total of 108 unprovoked attacks, five of which were fatal. Some years there have been no attacks at all. What's most surprising is how few shark incidents there are, not how many there are."



"There isn't a shark on the planet that has evolved to make a living eating people and when they do bite people it is a very unusual circumstance," said Dr. Holland.