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**ACTIVITY:** Snorkeling

**CASE:** [GSAF 2015.04.29](#)

**DATE:** Wednesday April 29, 2015

**LOCATION:** The attack took place in the Pacific Ocean in Kanahena Cove a popular snorkeling area of Ahihi-Kinohi National Area Reserve close to Dumps, a popular surf spot south of Makena on the southwest coast of Maui, Hawaii, USA.



*Margaret Cruse*

**NAME:** Margaret Cruse

**DESCRIPTION:** She was a 65-year-old female from Kihei. "She did what she wanted to do. She loved animals. Accidents happen, and I think she was aware that nature can be a hard thing sometimes," said her brother., a retired police officer. He added that his sister loved the water and snorkeling. "She went every morning ... she was never afraid of anything in the ocean because she did it so often," he said.

### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** Partly cloudy skies, air temperature 83°F, and moderate to fresh ENE/E trades.

**MOON PHASE:** Waxing Gibbous, 84% of the Moon was illuminated. Full Moon, May 3, 2015.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The sea surface temperature was 77°F, swell and waves SSW, surf height 0 to 1 ft, and the water was turbid. Mean low tide at Makena occurred at 07h00.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Dumps is about a mile from Big Beach at Makena State Park.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 200 yards

**DEPTH OF WATER:** 20 to 30 feet

**TIME:** 08h30

**NARRATIVE:** Margaret Cruse was snorkeling with two other friends but became separated from the others. When found, she was alone, unresponsive and floating face down in the water shortly before 09h00 by snorkelers who pulled her from the water at a popular surfing spot known as 'The Dumps' near Makena, where paramedics attempted lifesaving efforts but were unsuccessful.

Crews were quick to clear the water using jet skis, and the Department of Land and Natural Resources closed the area to swimmers, divers and other ocean activities until further notice. Staff posted additional signage along the coast to warn people of the incident.

**INJURY:** Fatal. "The woman had lost her arm and had other injuries to her upper torso that were consistent with a shark bite," officials said. Wailea firefighters arrived at 09h12 and began lifesaving efforts, but the woman did not survive. At 09h30, the beach was at Āhihi Kīnaʻu was closed and state crews extended the closure from La Perouse Bay to Mākena State Park or "Big Beach."

**SPECIES:** Tiger shark

**SOURCES:** KHON2, April 29, 2015 <http://khon2.com/2015/04/29/woman-dies-after-apparent-shark-attack-on-maui/>

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/shark-kills-woman-off-maui-prompts-beach-closures-30687059>

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/mbvd/woman-dies-off-maui-after-losing-arm-in-shark-attack#.mgJL8j75x6>

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/28934069/deadly-shark-attack-in-waters-near-makena-on-maui-prompts-beach-closures>

Star Advertiser, April 30, 2015

<http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/breaking/301904391.html?id=301904391&src=em>

Daily Mail, April 30, 2015, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3063685/Snorkeler-65-killed-shark-popular-Maui-surf-spot-identified-California-native-loved-ocean-swam-day.html>



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