



ACTIVITY: Stand-Up-Paddleboarding

CASE: GSAF 2016.01.23

DATE: Saturday January 23, 2016

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean at Wailea Beach on the south shore of Maui, Hawaii, USA.

NAME: Matt Mason

DESCRIPTION: A 48-year-old male from Chanhassen, Minnesota.

BOARD: A white board with a single red fin.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 10h54 Kahului recorded scattered clouds and 10-mile visibility. The air temperature was 82°F, heat index 83.8°F, dew point 64.9°F, humidity 56%, sea level pressure 30.12 inches and wind direction was NNE at 11.5 mph.

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, January 23, 2016

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 150 yards

TIME: 10h30

NARRATIVE: Matt Mason and his wife, Beth were paddleboarding together but Beth was about five feet behind him when the incident took place. Mason was kneeling on his board when he felt a jolt, and the board started speeding forward. Initially he thought his wife had rammed him as a joke. But then he looked over his shoulder, and “there was this head attached to the back of the board,” he said.

Mason said the shark, which had clamped its jaws to the back of the board, gave a twist, and it threw him off. He landed on the shark’s back. His wife had seen the shark swim underneath her board and attack his board. When he fell into the water, she yelled, “Hit him, Mas, hit him!”. Mason said he punched the shark “somewhere in the midsection”. He said he believes the shark didn’t bite him then because it was still holding onto the board. Then he went under the water. Although the board’s leash had ripped from his ankle, after he



Matt and Beth Mason

Photo courtesy of Matt Mason.

resurfaced, he was able to grab his paddle, and then spotted his board floating not too far away. He swam toward it, worried the shark would grab onto his legs. But he managed to get back on the board “pretty damn quick.” He said “it was like having an aircraft carrier in front of me. I felt so much safer when I was on that board,” he said. The incident was witnessed and filmed from the beach.

The couple, although shaken, paddled back to shore. On the paddle back, worried the shark was still there, Mason told himself, “Don’t fall. Don’t fall.” He didn’t fall, and he didn’t see the shark again.

INJURY: No injury

SPECIES: A natural resources official measured the bite marks on the board and determined the incident involved a tiger shark, 14 feet in length.

SOURCE: Grand Forks Herald, January 27, 2016

<http://www.grandforksherald.com/news/region/3934044-minnesota-man-punches-14-foot-tiger-shark-attacking-him-then-asks-beer>



Matt Mason bought the rental board he was using and is having it shipped home. Despite the teeth marks, “It’s perfectly usable,” he said. Photo courtesy of Matt Mason.

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