



**ACTIVITY:** Swimming

**CASE:** [GSAF 2016.09.07](#)

**DATE:** Wednesday September 7, 2016

**LOCATION:** The attack took place in the Pacific Ocean at Makaha Beach Park on the west shore of Oahu, Hawaii, USA.

**NAME:** Lulu Bagnol, known locally as “Aunty Lulu.”

**DESCRIPTION:** A 51-year-old female who visits the Oahu beach regularly.

### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Waxing Crescent, 35% of the Moon was illuminated

**ENVIRONMENT:** The incident took place called “Turtle Rock”, so named because of a big rock in the water where turtles are often seen. The tour boats have been known to chum to attract sea turtles and dolphins in the area for their guests and are not allowed to drop anchor within 200 feet of swimmers.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 300 yards

**DEPTH OF WATER:** 25 to 30 feet

**TIME:** 14h25

**NARRATIVE:** Lulu Bagnol had been in the water for two hours when she “something large” tackle her. Though she remained calm, she yelled for help while struggling to swim back to shore. A surfer named G-No noticed her and with the help of another surfer named Danny and lifeguards Kaimana and Brandon, they paddled her back to shore on a longboard. . About five surfers were in the water. Surfer G-No Opfer was the first to reach the injured

woman, but his shortboard was too small to transport her to shore, so he yelled for his friend Danny Boro who had a longboard. "She said she couldn't breathe and she had a hard time breathing ... and I didn't know how much blood she lost." Boro said. "By that time, lifeguards had paddled out. We brought her in and called the ambulance," said Jason Patterson, an Ocean Safety lieutenant. The surfers and lifeguards worked as a team to bring the woman to shore. "They we were tag teaming it...tourniquets, stop the bleeding," said Opfer. Lifeguards posted shark warning signs and cleared the water. The beach remained closed and will be reassessed Thursday morning.

**INJURY:** She sustained lacerations to her right shoulder, upper back, and right forearm with ulnar nerve damage.

**TREATMENT:** On the beach, paramedics took over with advanced life support and transported the woman in serious condition to a trauma center.

**SPECIES:** "As we got her on the board, I turned around I saw a big fin, said Boro. "I can honestly say it was like a 10-foot tiger shark...the fin was like about two and a half foot... so I think it was a 10-foot tiger shark," he said.

In 2015, Dr. Cal Meyer of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology at the University of Hawaii said the number of people living in Hawaii and using the ocean for recreation has increased over time, and this is the single most likely reason for a higher number of shark bites in recent years. Dr. Meyer also said another possible contributing factor is the life cycle of sharks in Hawaiian waters. He noted that most of the attacks occur in fall months. Over the past few decades, nearly one-third of all shark bite incidents in the state happened during the months of October and November, noting that "pupping season" for tiger sharks occurs during those months. "It is possible that pregnant and postpartum female tiger sharks are feeding more frequently than other individuals, as these hungry females try to replenish their diminished energy reserves," said Dr. Meyer.

**SOURCE:** Chelsea Davis, Hawaii News Now, September 7, 2016

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/33044129/woman-bit-by-shark-at-makaha-beach>



