

Ordinary Paddle Board Run to Diamond Head Turns Into Harrowing, Bloody Experience

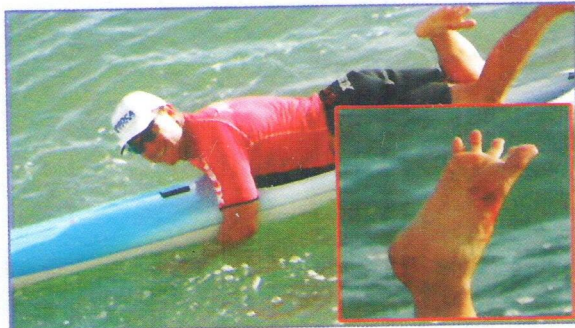


Photo by Joss Todd Bradley shows off his injuries.

By Todd Bradley

While I was paddle boarding outside the reef near Diamond Head on Saturday evening, July 14, at about 6:30 p.m., something grabbed my whole foot above my toes. I was bitten and almost pulled off my paddleboard by four good hard tugs.

Needless to say I was freaking, since I was by myself. I pulled my

foot out of the creature's mouth and sprinted 1/2 mile in to the beach. While heading back to the beach I turned around and my leg was

bloody! YIKES!!

When I got to the beach, I examined my foot and luckily found that the bite was around my foot above my toes. There were many cuts but none too deep. The wounds were not consistent with a shark, as the teeth marks were small and cuts that go to my toes are more

ribboned and shredded. No stitches were needed. LUCKY!

I paddled home a little bloody and with a good "show and tell" in the OCC Locker Room that evening.

After visiting the doctor to check wounds and stop infection, and looking back at all that occurred, it was a big creature for sure. It wasn't a shark. The wounds and teeth were not big enough. It probably was not a barracuda. The teeth and cuts were not consistent.

This led me to think that it could have been a LARGE 20-40 pound "ULUA". This makes sense as it was high tide and just outside the reef and surf break in murky water. This is an area where these aggressive hunters patrol for their dinner.

When paddle boarding on a stock

board, you drag a foot either right or left to turn the board. The boards are very silent through the water and when this fish sensed my yummy foot as a small fish for a meal, he charged in. I guess he was surprised there was more above that, huh!

All is OK. No stitches were needed. The cuts are not that bad just lots of them, and I need to keep infection out. However, I can tell you at the time, since it was late in the evening and I was by myself, it did scare the s---t out of me!!!

Attached is a picture that was taken by Joss who happened to be on the beach as I paddled back to the OCC from Diamond Head beach. Needless to say, I paddled back to OCC inside the reef along the beach, not outside as usual.