

through a Peace Corps translator. None of us were aware of the Baldrige and Williams paper at this time.

Attack at Pisarach (Pisaras), Namonuito Atoll. While conducting the interview for the above attack, I learned that another man was at that time in Truk Hospital with a shark bite. The victim in this case was Santiago Kapriel from the island of Pisarach in the Namonuito group. This atoll lies 145 km northwest of Truk proper but is part of the Truk District. The victim is a Trukese male who reckons his age at about 60. He is a fisherman by trade. On the night of December 7, 1970, he was night fishing on the inside of the barrier reef about 400 m southwest of Pisarach. He was wading in waist deep water and using a jig type of lure on a pole and line to catch squirrel fish, *Myripristis* sp. He was with another male fisherman. Neither man had lights, both were relying on moonlight to move about on the reef. There was considerable cloud cover but visibility was good. The sea was calm and clear. The fishermen were making no unusual noises and were moving quietly about their business. Both were wearing dark colored wrap around cloths, typical attire for the people of the outer islands. The shade of their skin was also dark. They each were towing stringers of fish through the water. Santiago had forty to fifty fish on his stringer.

A single shark approached the two men at about 11 p.m. The animal was seen immediately by both men, and it came straight toward Santiago. Again, both men seemed to know instinctively that the animal was in an attack pattern. Santiago immediately threw his fish toward the shark, however, the animal passed under the string of slowly sinking fish without hesitation and bore straight in, seizing the victim on the anterior portion of the thigh. As Santiago turned away from the attack, he was bitten again on the lateral and posterior portions of the thigh. The shark attacked repeatedly and the victim kicked and struck at the animal with his hands. In so doing, several fingers were bitten, and his shins were lacerated. Santiago's companion thrashed at the shark with his fishing pole and both men retreated toward Pisarach and shallow water. The shark continued to attack until the men were in

knee deep water—it continued to follow them parallel to the beach for a few minutes and then disappeared.

The victim was only able to say that this was a dark colored shark about 1.8 m long with no fin markings. The identity of the species remains unknown.

The most serious damage to the victim was the loss of integumentary and muscle tissue from the thigh. The primary wound was oval in shape and spanned the anterior portion of the thigh. It was approximately 16 cm (medio-lateral) by 12 cm (superior-inferior), and 2 or 3 cm deep at the center. The wound was still open and raw at the time of interview and the patient was scheduled for a skin graft the next morning.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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- ROBERT S. JONES, *Marine Laboratory, University of Guam, Agana, Guam.*

NONFATAL SHARK ATTACK, PALAU ISLANDS. On September 15, 1970 I interviewed Aisamerael Samsel of Koror, a 20-year old tan-colored Palauan male student, at the MacDonald Memorial Hospital in Koror. He had been admitted following a shark attack at 7:45 a.m. September 13, 1970.

During the interview Samsel informed me that a shark had attacked him while he was spearing fish in the company of four others in clear water about twenty feet deep on the seaward slope of the barrier reef. One of the party speared the shark which then approached Samsel at the surface. He tried to ward off

the attack but the shark bit him severely, first on the right forearm with the removal of a good deal of flesh, the bone being scraped by the shark's teeth, then less severely on the left forearm and rib cage. The shark was about three feet long.

I questioned Samsel closely about the identity of the shark, using sketches and considering the species *Carcharinus albimarginatus* (Rüppell), *C. longimanus* (Poey), *C. melanopterus* (Quoy and Gaimard), *C. menisorrhah* (Valenciennes), and *Triacodon obesus* (Rüppell). I gained the impression that the species involved was *Carcharinus albimarginatus*.

Three months later I again questioned Samsel about the attack in connection with a report to the U.S. Navy. At this time he gave me more information but his story differed in a few details from that previously given.

During the second interview Samsel stated that the attack took place outside the barrier reef about one mile southwest of West Passage on the west side of Babelthuap. The spearing party was about one hundred feet from the reef and the shark bit Samsel as he was returning to the surface after pursuing a fish on the reef below. The sea was rough and the water murky. The day was sunny and there were no unusual noises except for the swimming of the spearing party. At the time of the attack there were no floating objects in the water nearby except for the group's boat. Samsel was wearing long brown trousers and a wrist watch. During this interview Samsel did not seem as certain about the white markings on the shark.

Besides Samsel the spearing party included Steve Ugetararo of Koror, Principal of the Munes Elementary School; Paul Simang, Ngiramked and Teltull Ngiramutuker, all fishermen from the village of Aimeliik.

Later I interviewed Umetaro who corroborated most of Samsel's account. He stated that the waves were about 4-5 feet high and the water murky. Ngiramked speared the shark and played it throughout the attack. Samsel dived in the vicinity of the shark in pursuit of a fish on the reef below. As Samsel surfaced the shark went for him but he was able to avoid it. However, when the shark pressed its attack the second time it was successful.

Umetaro stated that the shark was 4-5 feet long and devoid of white markings. From Umetaro I gained the firm impression that the shark was *Carcharinus menisorrhah*. Umetaro said that there was a floating log in the attack area and that the shark appeared to be associated with it.

After the attack Samsel was treated by Dr. Donald Sprafke of the U. S. Navy and was later removed to Guam Naval Hospital for plastic surgery.

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I thank Aisamerael Samsel for his kindness in supplying what must have been difficult details to report. I also thank Steve Umetaro for his account of the attack, and Dr. Donald Sprafke, U. S. Navy, for bringing the attack to my attention.

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NOTES ON BIRDS FROM NAMOLUK ATOLL.¹

Namoluk is a small, triangular-shaped atoll located in Truk District, Eastern Caroline Islands, at 5° 55' N., 153° 08' E., approximately 130 miles southeast of Moen Island, the district center. Namoluk's nearest island neighbor is Etal, some 35 miles farther south. Namoluk consists of five low coral islets with a combined land area of 0.322 square miles and it has a completely enclosed lagoon covering 2.972 square miles. The total resident population of the atoll numbered 272 in June, 1970, and the entire population is located on one islet, also called Namoluk. The author spent fifteen months on the atoll (from 1969-1971) during which time he was conducting field research in cultural anthropology and made the following ornithological observations.

The number of bird species found on Namoluk is not large. Sixteen species regularly inhabit the atoll for part or all of the year and six others are sighted occasionally. Of the regular inhabitants, four are land birds (including the

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