

ACTIVITY: Swimming
CASE: [GSAF 1955.00.00.c](#)
DATE: 1955

LOCATION: The incident reportedly took place in Lake Michigan at Chicago, Cook County, Illinois, USA.

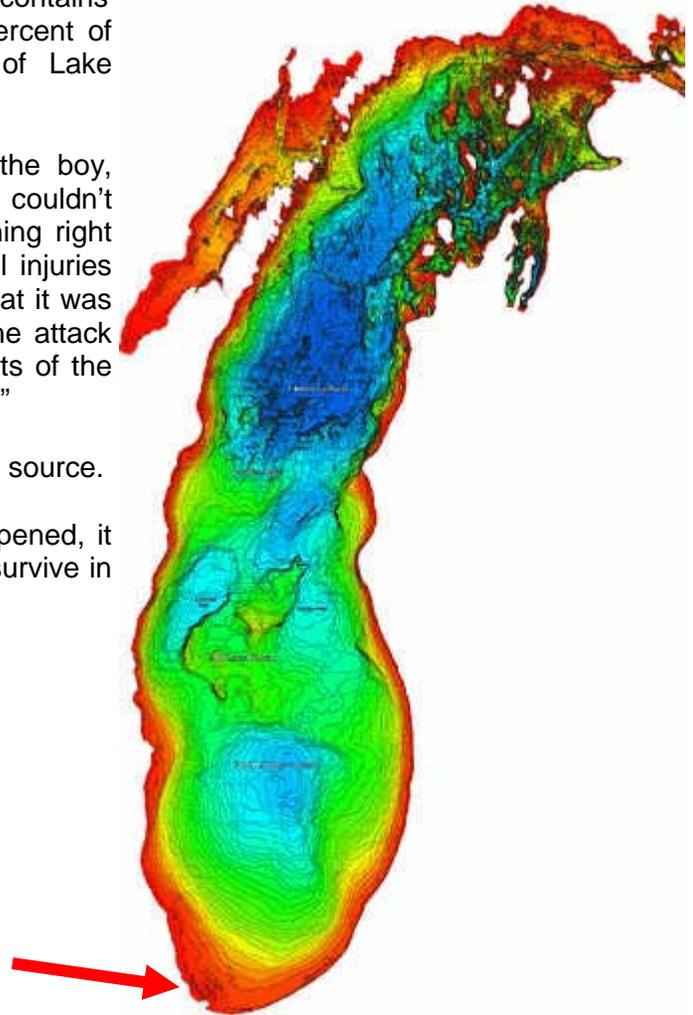
NAME: George Lawson

ENVIRONMENT: Lake Michigan is part of the Great Lakes (Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario), the largest system of fresh, surface water on Earth. It contains roughly 21 percent of the world supply and 84 percent of North America's supply. The maximum depth of Lake Michigan is 925 feet.

NARRATIVE: "Rescuer John Adler who hauled the boy, minus most of his right leg, into a boat said, 'I just couldn't believe it, but I had to believe what I saw happening right before my eyes!' When doctors found the dreadful injuries on Lawson they had no hesitation in proclaiming that it was indeed a shark bite. Others who had witnessed the attack saw the fish heading away back into the deep parts of the lake, its passage marked by . . . A tell tale dorsal fin."

INJURY: Right leg lacerated. Fatal according to one source.

SPECIES INVOLVED: *If* this incident actually happened, it involved a bull shark, *C. leucas*, a species able to survive in fresh water.



One of the most astonishing shark attacks on record took place in 1955 when George Lawson a Chicago boy was attacked while taking a swim in Lake Michigan!

Rescuer John Adler who hauled the boy, minus most of his right leg, into a boat, said "I just couldn't believe it, but I had to believe what I saw happening right before my eyes!" When doctors found the

dreadful injuries on Lawson they had no hesitation in proclaiming that it was indeed a shark bite. Others who had witnessed the attack saw the fish heading away back into the deep parts of the lake, its passage marked by . . . a tell tale dorsal fin.

What kind of shark would travel the thousands of miles necessary through fresh water rivers and lakes to get to Lake Michigan?

Well there is one species well known for its aggressiveness and also for its liking of fresh and brackish waters, the infamous *Carcharhinus Leucas*, (now often called *Carcharhinus Springer*).

SOURCE: Felix Dennis, pages 52 & 53

NOTE: The *only* press report about a shark in Lake Michigan that this researcher has found to date is the article at right which appeared in The Sheboygan Press (Sheboygan, Wisconsin), May 6, 1969, Section II, page 21. The 29-inch shark in the photograph is a bull shark.



SHARK TAKEN FROM LAKE MICHIGAN — Gil Scharnek (left) and Cal Lukasavitz examine the 29-inch shark they found floating in Lake Michigan last Wednesday off Milwaukee. They were trolling for coho salmon when they saw the shark, said Scharnek, who speculated it was tossed off an ocean freighter. —(AP Wirephoto)

It's No Fish Story . . . Find Shark In Lake

MILWAUKEE (UPI) — Experts swear it's no fish story.

Two Milwaukee men went trolling for coho salmon on Lake Michigan last week and came back with something they hadn't expected—a toothy, 29-inch shark.

Gil Scharnek and Cal Lukasavitz spotted the ominous looking specimen floating about two miles off the South Milwaukee shore, they said.

"We saw a seagull sitting on what we thought was a piece of flotsam," Scharnek said. "When we got closer, the seagull flew away and we saw it was a fish.

"Cal said, 'Look, it's a sturgeon,' but when we got up to it we could see it was a shark."

They took it home and froze it pending further examination and investigation.

It is indeed a shark, said Gerald Ludwig, a public museum ecologist. But he couldn't explain how it might have found its way into Lake Michigan. The fish did not appear to have been dead long.

"Maybe it was thrown off one of those ocean ships," Scharnek said. "Or somebody had it in an aquarium, maybe it came through the seaway like the lamprey eels."

Ludwig said Lake Michigan's present temperature of 42 degrees would not be too cold for a shark.

"But if it was living in Lake Michigan, it would be the first such record," he said.

Unprepared as America's public beaches are to warn bathers of the presence of these man-eaters, still less prepared -- and understandably so -- are resort areas off the beaten track, rivers, and fresh water lakes.

Attacks by sharks in these areas are rare, but they do happen.

One such rare occurrence happened some twenty years back when a Chicago boy, George Lawson, went swimming in the waters of Lake Michigan. Some yards out, he suddenly began to wave his arms wildly and cry for help. A man in a boat some distance away went quickly to his aid, thinking the boy had suffered a cramp. But as he came alongside, the swimmer said he had been attacked by a shark, and raised a leg to show massive wounds. The water all around him was stained with blood.

"I didn't believe it," says John Adler, his rescuer. "But I had to believe what I saw."

He pulled George into the boat, leaving the better part of his leg floating in the water. The yells had attracted other boaters, and as a second boat came alongside, the shark was spotted some distance away, heading out towards the middle of the lake, his fin unmistakably giving him away.

The unconscious boy was taken ashore, his leg amputated through the knee joint. Behind the leg, just above the joint was another unmistakable sign of the identity of his attacker -- a gaping wound showing four teeth marks.

There were also other small lacerations on the thigh of the left leg from the knee to the buttocks. The victim never regained consciousness.

Post mortem findings indicated that he had become unconscious from loss of blood and shock while being brought in, and had inhaled a quantity of water leading to death by drowning.

John Adler testified that the victim's leg had been intact, though badly damaged when he first approached Lawson. He concluded that the shark must have made a second attack, taking the rest of the leg off as he was pulling him up into the boat.

"I don't know," he said at the time. "I wasn't

really aware of anything in the panic. I couldn't really believe what was happening."

Under the circumstances, it's hardly surprising. One doesn't expect to encounter a shark even in public beaches off the coast of America -- but in a lake?

The above incident is probably the most bizarre on record. There has been no explanation of it -- either official or otherwise, and no reports of other attacks since that day twenty years ago.

There has been theorizing about how the shark made his way into the lakes waters, but even the experts are baffled about why.

Less bizarre, but equally horrifying, was the case of the fisherman who waded about ten feet out into the waters at the mouth of the St. Lawrence river to fight a heavy strike. Whatever the catch was -- and it may have been the shark -- it made a sudden run, and the line became slack. Then, the fisherman, Maurice Sauvé, felt something bump into his right leg. He moved his leg, just as the shark bit down violently, shaking it as if to tear off a mouthful of calf.

Maurice fell into the water, but somehow managed to free his leg and keep his head above the surface. As he attempted to rise, the shark hit him again, ramming into him with such force, that he was once again knocked underwater.

Maurice grabbed the shark around the middle, but was unable to clasp his hands together as his arms encircled the shark's body. The shark pulled him around in the water, and then surged forward with such momentum that the man could no longer hold on.

Maurice gained his footing and made for the bank of the river, looking back to see the shark struggling in the shallows after following him a little too close to shore.

Maurice sustained severe cuts and lacerations from the bite, swelling and bruising from the powerful bump and suffered from shock. Considering the beating he had taken, he had emerged largely unscathed.

SOURCE: Killer Sharks, (undated but contains a review of the movie, Jaws), Published by Big Brother Communications, Montreal, Canada, Volume 1, No. 1, page 97

Other 5 -- No Title

Chicago Tribune (1963-Current file); Oct 13, 1975;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Chicago Tribune (1849 - 1986)
pg. A1

Action line

Q—After assuring my children they would not be attacked by sharks if they swam in Lake Michigan, I found an account of a shark killing a Chicago boy by the name of George Lawson in the lake. It appeared in a magazine titled "Killer Sharks: Jaws of Death." Could you investigate?

Jeannine Thompson, Arlington Hts.

A—In our business, it's easier to prove something did happen rather than that it didn't and somebody made it up. The account to which you refer doesn't have much going for it. Our files record no such incident under the listing of his name or sharks, and it certainly would be newsworthy. We called the publishers of the magazine in Montreal and were told by staff member Jack Dean, "Oh that. A number of people have asked us about that. We put the magazine together in four days. I think we got the story from some British magazine. Personally, I don't believe it."

Chicago Tribune (1963-Current file); Oct 2, 1978;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Chicago Tribune (1849 - 1986)
pg. D1

Q—My son, like many other boys his age, is fascinated by sharks. In a book I was

reading recently there is an account of an attack on a swimmer, George Lawson, in Lake Michigan. According to the author, Lawson lost his leg to the "infamous *Carcharhinus Springer*." This attack supposedly occurred in the summer of 1955. Since I lived in Chicago at that time, and then, as I do now, had some interest in sharks, I had a hard time believing that such a rare event would not have been widely published by the Chicago media. Can you tell me if this story is true?

John Phillips Woodland Hills, Cal.

A—The story is pure myth. There was a shark found in Lake Michigan, but there has never been an attack. It was a real 29-inch shark, not a fake, that two Coho fishermen pulled from the lake about two miles off the Milwaukee shore on April 25, 1969. The shark was dead, but for several days fishermen in the area were uneasy. Ensuing publicity regarding the prospect of sharks in the lake brought forth a confession from a tavern owner, who said two of his customers planted the fish in the lake for him as a joke. He had caught the shark in Florida a couple of years before and kept it in his freezer, he said.

Lake Michigan Shark Mystery Solved
Chicago Tribune (1963-Current file); May 8, 1969;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Chicago Tribune (1849 - 1986)
pg. 3

Lake Michigan Shark Mystery Solved

MILWAUKEE—Coho salmon fishermen who have been worried for the last several days when it was reported that a 29-inch shark was found floating, dead, in Lake Michigan by two fishermen can rest easy. William Bathke, 39, a Milwaukee tavern owner, admitted yesterday that the whole thing was a hoax. He said he caught the shark at Cape Coral, Fla., in 1966 and kept it in his freezer until last week when two customers threw it in the lake.

Recent Shark Found in Lake Michigan No Surprise

I read in the newspaper this morning that a gentleman from Traverse City, Michigan found a dead shark in Lake Michigan. This did not surprise me. Rick Fasi discovered the two-foot long fish while boating and had it identified as a juvenile blacktip shark by an expert from the University of Florida. This species surprised me. I would have expected it to have been a bull shark. Let me give you some historical background on Lake Michigan and some surrounding freshwater rivers to explain why:

In September of 1937, the patience of Alton, Illinois anglers "Dudge" Collins and Herbert Copes was completely exhausted. More times than they cared to count, something—something big—had destroyed their Mississippi River fish traps while helping itself to a quick, easy meal. They guessed it was an opportunistic, gigantic catfish. They decided to end its marauding once and for all by setting a seine net to snare it.

When they returned they found that the trap had apparently worked, as the net's buoys showed signs of a terrific struggle beneath the muddy water's surface. What the men pulled up, though, left them shocked and scared. Ensnared in the net was a bull shark that was over five-feet long and 84 pounds. For those not familiar with bull sharks, here are a few facts:



- They can reach eleven feet in length. They are considered by divers to be the second most dangerous shark (after the great white).

Unprovoked bull shark attacks on humans are not uncommon. Some studies have shown that bull sharks kill more humans per year than any other shark species.

- These unusual elasmobranches can not only survive in freshwater, but have been known worldwide to actually prefer it to saltwater. They are common inhabitants of—or visitors to—rivers that enter the ocean, such as the Ganges in India, the Zambezi in Africa, and our very own Mississippi and its tributaries.

Many authorities, presumably wanting to prevent panic among river dwellers and water-sport enthusiasts, insist that, due to the extensive lock-and-dam system built on the river shortly after the Alton catch, it would now be impossible for a shark to wend its way up the Mississippi, Illinois, or Ohio Rivers. That sounds comforting, but how can the authorities account for the following horror and oddity that occurred in 1955 and 1969 respectfully, well after the completion of the locks?

The day was beautiful, and consequently many were cooling off by boating or swimming in Lake Michigan. Among them was George Lawson, a boy from Chicago, who was swimming not too far from a boat off the shore. While splashing and playing, George was abruptly pulled underwater. Upon resurfacing, his screams for help brought John Adler to his rescue. Nevertheless, by the time he was brought into the boat, George's right leg had been severed. The boat's stunned passengers could do little but stare in dumbfounded awe at a large "tell-tale dorsal fin" that headed

out to deeper water.

"I just couldn't believe it, but I had to believe what I saw happening right before my eyes!" exclaimed a stunned Adler.

Doctors were certain that the boy's injuries were inflicted by a shark, but were unable to explain from whence it came.

The second inscrutable encounter also played itself out on Lake Michigan. Anglers Gil Scharnek and Cal Lukasavitz literally stumbled upon a second shark specimen—much smaller, but a shark none-the-less.

"We saw a seagull sitting on what we thought was a piece of flotsam," recalled Scharnek. "When we got closer, the seagull flew away and we saw it was a fish. Cal said 'Look, it's a sturgeon,' but when we got up to it we could see it was a shark."

The two brought the curiosity home with them, froze it and eventually had the identity of their find verified by a museum ecologist as a bull shark. Even though the lake's temperature was a bone-chilling 42 degrees, the ecologist confirmed that even that was not too cold for a shark.

Out-of-place animals have always fascinated me, but these sharks may have a purely biological origin...though blacktips are not known for their freshwater forays. The Michigan DNR, of course, proposed that "someone might have caught the shark of the Atlantic coast and kept it on ice while bringing it to norther Michigan." This begs the question: who keeps a two foot blacktip shark?

SOURCE: http://biofort.blogspot.com/2008_09_01_archive.html (posted by Scott Maruna)

After Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005, a large number of bull sharks were sighted in Lake Ponchartrain. Bull sharks have occasionally been seen in the Mississippi River as far north as St. Louis. Even more rare, due to cooler waters, bull sharks have made their way up the Illinois River and into Lake Michigan such as an encounter off the coast of Chicago, Illinois. In that incident the shark was verified by U. of Illinois biologists as being a female 6 feet 9 inches and weighing over 300 lbs.

Wikipedia (not sourced)

Getting to the Bottom of Lake Michigan's Legendary 'Shark Attack'

Rumor has it a young George Lawson was attacked by a shark while swimming at a Chicago beach in 1955. Is it true, or just a bunch of bull shark? (Logan Jaffe/WBEZ)

It's the kind of "fact" that makes you blink and wonder if you read it correctly. The Global Shark Attack File, a listing of every documented shark attack in recent history, compiled by the non-profit Shark Research Institute, [lists a shark attack in Lake Michigan in 1955](#). The details are thin. The name of the victim: George Lawson. The species: bull shark. Lawson was bitten on the right leg. The bite was unprovoked and non-fatal.



It sounds impossible, right? Sharks live in the oceans, and while you sometimes hear of them in brackish rivers, Lake Michigan is nearly 2,000 navigational miles from the nearest ocean. The story persists in various [mythbusting columns](#), and while most experts think the story is probably an urban legend, Chicagoans keep bringing it up. Curious City got two very similar questions, one from Adam Kovac of Chicago, and another from Hilary Winiarz of Hawthorn Woods. Winiarz's wording summons the frustration of many Chicagoans about the ongoing lack of a satisfying answer.

Can we please get a final ruling on whether or not one young George Lawson was actually attacked by a shark, in Lake Michigan in 1955?

We'd love to help Hillary, Adam, and the unsatisfied masses. The problem is, there's very little evidence either way. And it can be very difficult to prove that something did NOT happen. Nevertheless, we took a three-pronged approach to answering this question.

Approach 1: Find a witness or participant in the event itself.

Approach 2: Locate the original source of the story, and evaluate its reliability.

Approach 3: Examine the scientific plausibility of a mature bull shark entering Lake Michigan, surviving long enough to attack a person in 1955.

Following this trajectory, we found a few clues about the origins of the story, and learned that a shark in Lake Michigan may not be as implausible as you would think.

Approach 1: Can I get a witness?

The Shark Research Institute sent us the names of the two people involved in the Lake Michigan shark attack; the victim, a boy named George Lawson, and the rescuer, John Adler. We searched public records for those names (including spelling variations) in the Chicago area, and found two George Lawsons and two John Adlers who could have been the right age in 1955; the Lawsons would have been under 16 and the Adlers over 18. We called the listed phone numbers. One phone line was disconnected, and we left messages on the other three. We heard from one respondent that he was NOT the John Adler we were looking for. Nobody else returned our calls. It seems clear that if a remaining John Adler or George Lawson were involved in a shark attack, they were not interested in discussing it with Curious City. Nor does it appear that any George Lawson or John Adler has ever given an interview about the shark attack.

Approach 2: Where did this bull shark story come from anyway? The Global Shark Attack database actually does list a source as “F. Dennis P 52”. After a little sleuthing, we found a [picture book](#) published in 1975 called *Man-Eating Sharks: a Terrifying Compilation of Shark-Attacks, Shark-facts and Shark-Legend!* “F. Dennis” refers to [Felix Dennis](#), who, as it turns out, is a famous and eccentric book and magazine publisher in the UK. He is known for founding several successful magazines including Maxim, Blender, PC World, and several others.

Unfortunately, he died of cancer in 2014, but his estate kindly put Curious City in touch with one of the authors of *Man-Eating Sharks*, Christopher Rowley, now based in upstate New York. Rowley remembers the book quite clearly: “Felix wanted to carve out a chunk of the enormous money flowing due to the *Jaws* phenomenon in 1975.”, he says.

Of course, he means Steven Spielberg’s mega-hit film, which sparked tremendous fascination and fear of sharks. In the midst of the *Jaws* craze, Dennis hired Rowley and two other writers to find out everything they could about sharks. “When Felix wanted something like that, it was like crash diving,” he says. “Klaxons are roaring, go out and buy everything you can. It was all about being nimble and quick in those days.”

Rowley spent five weeks at the library, reading about sharks, compiling information, and writing passages of the book. He doesn’t remember where the story of the Lake Michigan shark attack comes from, but definitely recalls reading about bull sharks. He admits they may have made up some of the details — fast and loose fact-finding didn’t begin with the internet age — but doesn’t think they made up that particular story. “There’s too much little detail there,” he says. “On the other hand, I can’t remember how much invention went into it, and how much we found in the libraries.”

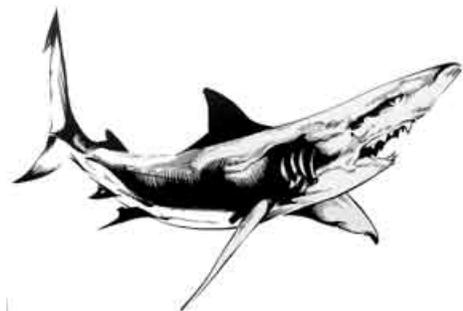
So if you believe Rowley, it suggests there may be another mysterious source of the Lake Michigan shark attack, possibly in another newspaper or magazine somewhere. If so, nobody involved with *Man-Eating Sharks* remembers what it was. Or, it’s possible Rowley or one of his collaborators just made up the story out of whole cloth, possibly after reading of the bull shark’s notorious habit of swimming up freshwater rivers. Which brings us to our next approach ...

Approach 3: So you’re saying there’s a chance? Scientists enjoy a good hypothetical situation, and several we spoke with indulged us by entertaining the possibility of a shark entering and surviving in Lake Michigan. Phil Willink, the Senior Research Scientist at the Shedd Aquarium, says the bull shark — the kind of shark named in the Global Shark Attack File — is notorious for entering freshwater: “It is able to control the salt and other compounds in its blood, to maintain a balance with the water that’s around it, and is able to move back and forth between freshwater and saltwater. So, yes, bull sharks can swim into freshwater and we think they can stay there for several years possibly.”

Furthermore, Willink says bull sharks have been documented as far as 2,000 miles upstream in the Amazon River, a few hundred

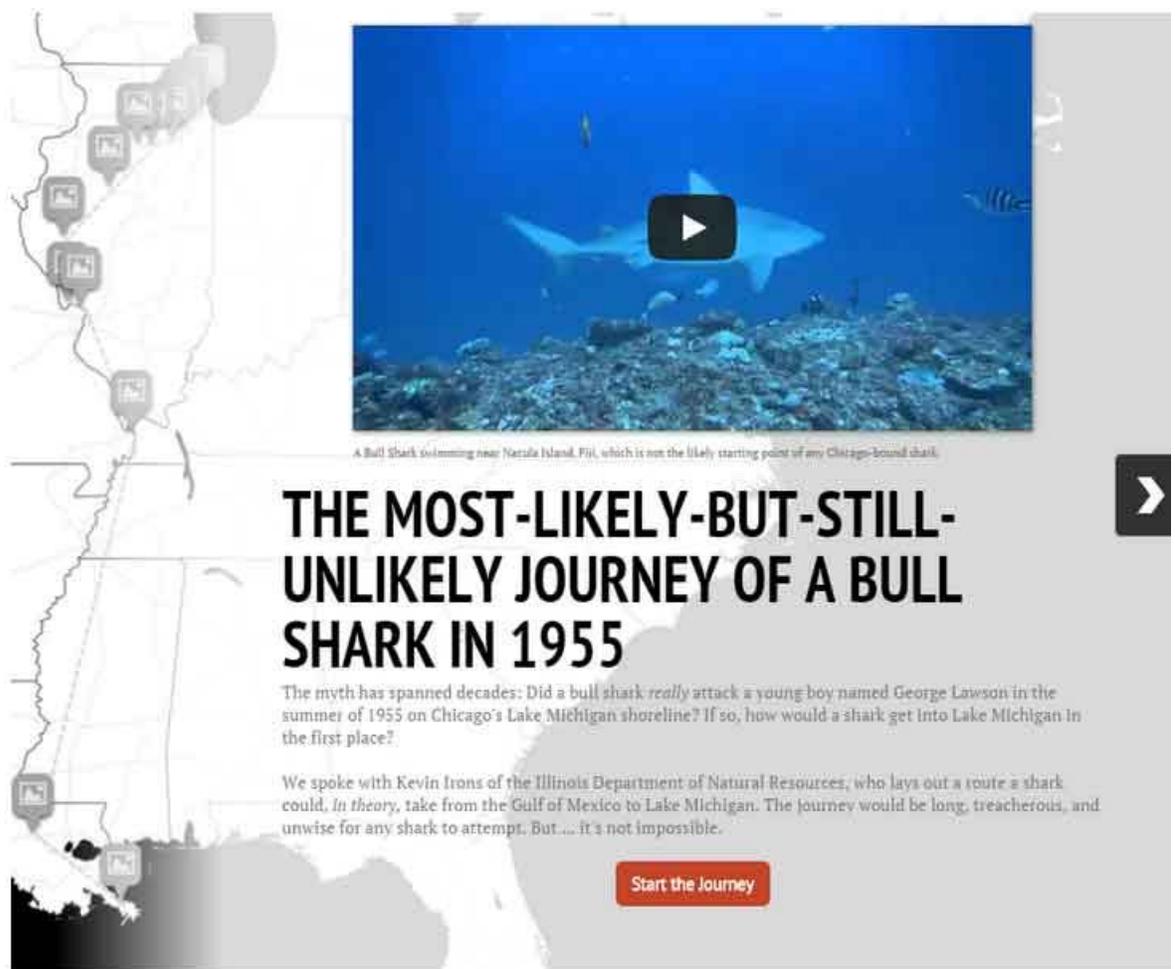


*The book *Man-Eating sharks*, which we purchased for exactly 1 cent. (WBEZ/Logan Jaffe)*



*While most shark species can only survive in saltwater, bull sharks have the unusual ability to survive in freshwater, too. (Illustration from the book *Man-Eating Sharks*)*

miles farther than the distance between Lake Michigan and the nearest saltwater. So it is theoretically possible for a bull shark to swim to Lake Michigan, if it could find a viable route. One path a shark could take to Lake Michigan is the St. Lawrence seaway, entering the St. Lawrence River north of New Brunswick, Canada, and swimming through Lake Ontario, The Welland Canal near Niagara Falls, Lake Erie, Lake Huron, and finally into Lake Michigan. Scientists agree this is probably impossible because of the great distance, the navigational obstacles, and most importantly, because the water of the Gulf of St. Lawrence at the entrance to the Seaway is far too cold for bull sharks. Their [northernmost range is Massachussets](#), seven hundred miles to the south. The more likely route, according to scientists, would be via the Mississippi River and Illinois River and Canal System. There are few obstacles to prevent a bull shark from reaching the Illinois River, and in fact, bull sharks have been occasionally spotted near St. Louis. But if you're curious what all it would take for a shark to get from the Mississippi River Delta to Lake Michigan in the first place, [we've put together the details:](#)



A Bull Shark swimming near Natala Island, Fiji, which is not the likely starting point of any Chicago-bound shark.

THE MOST-LIKELY-BUT-STILL-UNLIKELY JOURNEY OF A BULL SHARK IN 1955

The myth has spanned decades: Did a bull shark *really* attack a young boy named George Lawson in the summer of 1955 on Chicago's Lake Michigan shoreline? If so, how would a shark get into Lake Michigan in the first place?

We spoke with Kevin Irons of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, who lays out a route a shark could, *in theory*, take from the Gulf of Mexico to Lake Michigan. The journey would be long, treacherous, and unwise for any shark to attempt. But ... it's not impossible.

[Start the Journey](#)

If the shark did somehow manage to get through all eight locks and gates, it would face another immediate problem: The water is too cold. Bull sharks prefer water [warmer than seventy degrees fahrenheit](#), and Lake Michigan's water is [only that warm during a few weeks each year](#). That means the bull shark would have to accomplish all of this in a very short period of time, or, as Kevin Irons points out, find one of the places warm water is discharged into the lake by power plants. Neither

Irons nor the Shedd Aquarium's [Phillip Willink](#) will go so far to say a shark could never make it to Lake Michigan and survive long enough to attack a person, but both consider the odds to be outlandishly high.

Of course, the shark may have had help. A shark could certainly have been brought to Lake Michigan in a water tank on a truck, an airplane, or helicopter, perhaps in a [similar scenario](#) to the one faced by Batman in the 1966 film, Batman. We know this kind of thing happens, because at least two dead saltwater sharks have been found in Lake Michigan.

Lake Michigan Shark Mystery Solved
MILWAUKEE -Coho salmon fishermen who have been worried for the last several days when it was reported that a 29-inch shark was found floating, dead, in Lake Michigan by two fishermen can rest easy. William Bathke, 39, a Milwaukee tavern owner, admitted yesterday that the whole thing was a hoax. He said he caught the shark at Cape Coral, Fla., in 1966 and kept it in his freezer until last week when two customers threw it in the lake.

One of the two known hoaxes involving sharks in Lake Michigan. (Source: Chicago Tribune, 1969)

One was later revealed as a prank, and scientists think the [other](#) may have been a prank, or possibly a discarded pet. Phillip Willink admits the Shedd aquarium has several sharks swimming in tanks just a few feet from the waters of Lake Michigan, but promises "We keep them in the building at all times." Kevin Irons allows a baby shark could arrive in a cargo ship's ballast water tank, but it would most likely die in the lake. It would need to survive several years, living through the frigid winters, avoiding predation, until it was large enough to attack a child. Again, all of this is exceedingly unlikely.

The um, shark's tooth in the coffin?

Shark attacks make the news. Editors and reporters know there's something fascinating and horrific about toothed death emerging from tranquil waters in a vacation spot to ruin somebody's week. If a shark did attack somebody in Chicago, you would expect to see it in the Chicago newspapers. You would expect anniversary stories, stories pegged to "Shark Week", and "where are they now?" stories about Lawson and Adler. We have access to searchable archives for major Chicago newspapers and we found that none carried a shark attack story. This, more than any other piece of evidence, really makes the case that the bull shark story is an urban legend.

And one further point. Often, urban legends have their grounding in some true but prosaic story. Over time the details are exaggerated and enhanced into an enduring fiction. But there appears to be absolutely nothing CLOSE to the 1955 shark attack in any records. Until 1975. There are references to Lawson in the Tribune's "Action Line" column, and the earliest one: October 1975, and it references a magazine called [Killer Sharks: The Jaws of Death](#), also published in 1975, the same year as Felix Dennis' Man-Eating Sharks. All three verifiable references of George Lawson occur in 1975, the year of Jaws, and a year characterized by intense shark interest world wide. This cluster of references suggests a likely scenario: Somebody, possibly one of Felix Dennis' authors, possibly the Jaws of Death publishers, possibly the publishers of another mysterious book or magazine designed to capitalize on the Jaws phenomenon; somebody just made the whole thing up to sell magazines and make a quick buck. If that fabricator would only come forward, it

would save our questioners, and the city of Chicago, a great deal of frustration.

Adam Kovac asked his version of the question back in 2012, in the early days of the Curious City project. He was surprised and pleased when he heard we were finally tackling his question, three years (and several swimming seasons) later. We were unable to talk to him due to scheduling difficulties. Hilary Winiarz's day job is as a writer in corporate communication and a mother of a ten year old boy, Matty, who also likes sharks. In what spare time she can scrape up, she writes fiction. Perhaps, it's the romance novelist in her that makes her say she wants the shark story to be true: "I would, actually. I mean he lived, so it's not terribly tragic." Still unsatisfied, she mentioned the possibility of going through hospital records to find a patient named George Lawson in 1955. When we suggested that may prove a wild goose chase, she wasn't sure: "The jury is still out on the goose chase-ness of this of this, but it's enough potential for a goose chase to say I might be spinning my wheels."



Producer Jesse Dukes, left, and questioner Hilary Winiarz.

Jesse Dukes is Curious City's audio producer, and he knows a [thing](#) or two about sharks. Thanks to Emily Charnock for sharkival assistance.

SOURCE: WBEZ91Chicago, July 1, 2016

<https://www.wbez.org/shows/curious-city/getting-to-the-bottom-of-lake-michigans-legendary-shark-attack/939d4ecf-2dcc-4450-9ba7-5ca51a106e82>