

ACTIVITY: Spearfishing using SCUBA

CASE: [GSAF 1957.07.24](#)

DATE: Wednesday July 24, 1957

LOCATION: The accident took place in the Pacific Ocean at La Jolla, San Diego County, California, USA.

NAME: Earl A. Murray

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, July 27, 1957

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 300 metres

DEPTH OF WATER: 60 feet



NARRATIVE: Earl Murray was spearfishing off the Scripps Pier. He was swimming along the seafloor when a shark approached. When the shark was about an arm's length away, he jabbed it with his speargun. The shark repeatedly approached the diver and was jabbed several times. The diver surfaced and was again approached by the shark with its mouth open. The diver boarded his boat.

INJURY: The diver was not injured by the shark.

SPECIES: Said to involve a one-metre white shark but it was thought that the shark was probably a blue shark.

SOURCES: Ralph Collier, page xxc; H. David Baldrige, page 185

NOTE: This is classed as a provoked incident; the shark made a threat display but did not injure the diver.

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Ralph Collier