

ACTIVITY: Dragging stranded shark
CASE: [GSAF 1959.07.23.a](#)
DATE: Thursday July 23, 1959
LOCATION: The incident took place in Santa Monica Bay at Venice Beach, California, USA.

NAME: Rudy Gietel
DESCRIPTION: He was a lifeguard.

NARRATIVE: Gietel was attempting move a stranded shark ashore when it slashed his ankle.

INJURY: Right ankle lacerated.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Blue shark, six feet in length.

NOTE: This was a provoked incident.

SOURCE: Herald Express (Los Angeles), July 25, 1959 edition

Lifeguard Slashed By Shark

Venice lifeguard Rudy Gietel is recuperating today with a slashed right ankle after tangling with a six-foot blue shark.

The fish, not usually considered dangerous, slashed Gietel when he grabbed it by the tail after it was washed up on a spit opposite the foot of Windward st. yesterday.

Five of Gietel's fellow beach patrolmen joined the battle and dragged the shark ashore.

Also belligerent yesterday were sharks in the La Jolla area, according to Woodrow Smith, a Navy chief petty officer.

Smith said a 10-foot hammerhead rammed his 16-foot fishing boat about a mile from La Jolla Cove and then ripped a sack of fish which was hanging over the side.