

**ACTIVITY:** Spearfishing

**CASE:** [GSAF 1959.08.13](#)

**DATE:** Thursday August 13, 1959

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean at LaJolla, California, USA.

**NAMES / DESCRIPTIONS:** Joe Turner, age 24, and Don Ide, age 32.

**BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** First Quarter, August 11, 1959at 10h10

**NARRATIVE:** A shark was attracted to a speared halibut on the diver's belt, and tried to bite Ide's peargun. Ide shot the shark in the mouth.

**INJURY:** The divers were not injured by the shark.

**SPECIES:** The incident involved a hammerhead shark, nine feet in length.

**NOTE:** This was a provoked incident.

**SOURCES:** The Independent (Long Beach, CA), August 14, 1959, page 2; Victor M. Coppleson (1962), page 147

# Divers Win Half-Hour Joust, Kill 9-Ft. Hammerhead Shark

SAN DIEGO (UPI) — A nine-foot hammerhead shark menaced two skin divers for half an hour Thursday before he fell victim to a "one in a million" shot from one of the diver's spear guns.

Don Ide, 32-year-old La Jolla music teacher, killed the shark with one shot from his spear gun about a quarter mile off La Jolla shores. In the same general area, a killer shark dragged an experienced diver under and killed him in April. Also in the area, a shark attacked a lifeguard and ripped his leg before being driven away.

Ide, who was diving with Joe Turner, 24, said the

shark watched them and made passes toward them for about half an hour before he finally shot him in the mouth.

"He circled us about 20

minutes. First he would attack me and then Joe. We held him off with our spear guns," Ide said. "Finally he took the end of my spear in his mouth.

"I pulled the trigger. It was a shot in a million."

They were on the bottom when the shark started following them, Ide said. Attempts to scare it away failed. Ide said he thought the shark was after a halibut but that he had speared and hung on his belt.

He said he tried to pull the fish off his belt, but couldn't.

"I was winded," he explained. "I had to work with a heavy Aqualung on my back, too."



DON IDE (L) AND JOE TURNER