

ACTIVITY: Paddling
CASE: **GSAF 1959.12.29**
DATE: Tuesday December 29, 1959
LOCATION: Scotts Point Beach, Queensland, Australia.

BOAT: 12-foot surf ski
OCCUPANTS: Bill Dyer and Cliff Burgess

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, December 30, 1959
DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 80 yards
TIME: Afternoon



Scotts Point Beach, Queensland

NARRATIVE: The shark swam under the ski, then charged it several times. After the men struck the shark with an oar it moved away, but remained in the vicinity.

INJURY: No injury to occupants

SPECIES: The incident involved a 3.7-metre [12-foot] tiger shark.

SOURCE: Herald, (Redcliffe), December 31, 1959 (see next page)

12FT. SHARK ATTACKS SKI AT SCOTTS POINT BEACH: LIFESAVERS STARK WARNING TO SWIMMERS

Lifesavers have issued a warning to all swimmers against sharks following an attack on a 12 foot ski at Scotts Point Beach on Tuesday.

The lifesavers say that every Peninsula beach is unsafe for swimming, and they fear a shark attack is possible on an unpatrolled beach.

They told the Herald yesterday that at least three 12 foot sharks are cruising in the vicinity of Suttons, Margate, and Scotts Point beaches.

TIGER

On Tuesday afternoon two lifesavers were paddling their ski about 80 yards from shore when the 12 foot shark, believed to be a tiger, swam under the ski.

The two lifesavers, Bill Dyer and Cliff Burgess, attempted to scare the shark away, but it turned and violently attacked the ski.

Dyer said the shark made several lunges at the ski, and then practically forced it from the water with a violent bump.

Burgess and Dyer struck at the shark with an oar, and it swam off, but did not leave the vicinity.

THREE SHARKS

Dyer told the Herald that he had been on patrol all day and saw three sharks, the first at 8.45 a.m., the next at 9 a.m. and the third at 11 a.m.

"Then we didn't see any until the afternoon when the ski was attacked," he said. "We had the beach closed for most of the day."

Patrol Captain Ken O'Connell said one of the sharks came within fifty yards of the beach.

"He was a big one, too," said O'Connell.

O'Connell said he hadn't seen so many sharks at a local beach before, and warned that they were cruising the entire length of the Peninsula.

Dyer said the sharks were in an attack mood.

"The ski incident proved that, and besides they're getting too cheeky," he said.

LOOKOUT

They said that Scotts Point beach was the only beach that was patrolled, and swimmers could avoid a possible danger to themselves by swimming at the beach where a lookout is always on duty.

"Someone will go off for sure if they're not careful—we mean it—those sharks aren't fooling," O'Connell said.

Last Monday the lifesavers caught an eight foot grey nurse off Scotts Point.

Between Friday and Monday a total of 17 sharks were sighted.

The lifesavers will lay baits in an attempt to catch the shark that attacked the ski.