

ACTIVITY: Fishing

CASE: [GSAF 1961.01.06.a](#)

DATE: Friday January 6, 1961

LOCATION: The incident took place at Stokes Hill Wharf, Darwin, Australia. *12°23S, 130°44'E*

NAME: Arthur Hopkins

DESCRIPTION: He was a fisherman.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, January 2, 1961 at 08h36

ENVIRONMENT: Fisherman Tas Graham said the harbor “was alive with sharks.” The next night (Saturday) Graham caught four small sharks from Stokes Hill Wharf.

TIME: “Night”



NARRATIVE: Graham was fishing using a 120-pound line baited with a small shark when it was torn out of his hand by “something big”. After a 20-minute battle he reeled in a large hammerhead shark. It took two men to pull the shark out. Another fisherman, Arthur Hopkins was bitten as he tried to get the hook out of the shark’s mouth.

INJURY: Hopkins finger was bitten by the shark.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Hammerhead shark (species unrecorded), about six feet in length.

COMMENT: This is considered a provoked incident because it involved a hooked shark.

SOURCE: Darwin Northern Territory News, January 10, 1961 edition

Shark bites fisherman

A six-foot long hammerhead shark sank its teeth into a fisherman's finger on Friday night.

The shark was landed after a 20 minute battle and fisherman Arthur Hopkins was bitten as he tried to get the hook out of the shark's mouth.

Fisherman Tas Graham had hooked the shark while fishing in the wharf area.

"Big

Graham was using a 120lb. breaking strain line baited with a small shark when it was torn out of his hand by "something big".

The "something big" turned out to be the hammerhead shark. Graham said it took two men to pull the shark out.

Earlier in the night Graham said something really big hit a 150lb. breaking strain line and "snapped it like cotton".

Four

Graham said he caught four small sharks on Saturday night from Stokes Hill wharf.

He went on to say the harbor was alive with sharks at present.