

ACTIVITY: Spearfishing / Scuba diving

CASE: GSAF 1961.06.06.R

DATE: Reported June 6, 1961

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean off Ponte Vedra, St Johns County, Florida, USA.

NAME: W.S. Davidson (or W.E. Davidson)

NARRATIVE: Davidson and a companion were spearfishing at the wreckage of a tanker sunk off Ponte Vedra in World War II. They had speared a 30-pound amberjack and tied the bleeding fish to the side of their boat, trailing it in the water. Davidson's companion climbed back into the boat, but Davidson dallied in the water for a few minutes. He was about to surface when he looked up and saw "a tremendous hammerhead shark swirling violently" but was unable to see what the fish was doing.



When his air supply began to run out, Davidson realized he had to do something to get past the shark and back into the boat. So he removed his mouthpiece to allow a flurry of bubbles to shoot to the surface. The bubbles startled the shark and it swam away.

Returning to the boat, Davidson learned that the shark had swallowed the amberjack in a single gulp and the shark butted the boat.

INJURY: No injury to the diver or occupants of the boat.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Hammerhead shark.

SOURCE: Florida Times-Union, June 6, 1961