

**ACTIVITY:** Spearfishing  
**CASE:** GSAF 1962.01.14.b  
**DATE:** Sunday January 14, 1962  
**LOCATION:** Long Reef, North Manley, New South Wales, Australia

**BOAT:** The boat of Wally Gibbons

**BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** First Quarter, January 13, 1962

**NARRATIVE:** A speared shark bit the gunwale of the boat as it was being hauled onboard.

**SPECIES:** Said to involve a three-metre [10-foot] grey nurse shark.

**SOURCE:** Sydney Daily Telegraph, January 15, 1962

**NOTE:** This was a provoked incident; the shark had been speared.

# STRUGGLE BENT SPEAR



**SPEARFISHERMAN**  
Wally Gibbons, of North Manly, looking at the spear he caught a shark with at Long Reef yesterday. The 10ft. grey nurse shark bent the spear when it thrashed about as Gibbons and his friends were trying to haul it into their boat.

# Shark's attack on boat

**An enraged grey nurse shark almost jumped into a boat containing three spearfishermen off Long Reef yesterday.**

One of the fishermen had speared the 10ft shark and the three were hauling it up to the boat.

The shark sank its teeth into the gunwhale of the boat.

The spearfishermen later removed 15 of the shark's teeth from the gunwhale.

The men gaffed the shark after a 20-minute fight.

One of the spearfishermen, Wally Gibbons, 30, of

North Manly, saw the shark in about 30ft. of water off rocks at Long Reef.

Gibbons jumped out of the boat and swam down to the shark.

When he was about three feet from the shark he speared it behind the head.

He swam back to the boat to help drag the shark in.

"The shark didn't give us any trouble until we got it near the surface," Gibbons said.

"Then it thrashed about and attacked the boat."

## Light gun

After the fishermen landed the shark they took the shark back to Collaroy Beach in their 14ft. boat.

Earlier a 13ft. whaler shark passed within a few feet of Gibbons while he was spearfishing.

Gibbons, who was looking for jewfish, had only a light speargun at the time.

He backed up against a reef and watched the shark swim by.

"He just gave me a curious stare and swam away," Gibbons said.

Several sharks were seen off Sydney beaches yesterday.

Lifesavers sighted sharks off Bondi, South Narrabeen and Freshwater beaches.

At South Narrabeen a surfboard rider saw a shark swimming 10 yards away from 20 lifesavers taking part in a surf race.

A shark alarm at Bondi sent about 5000 people from the water.