

ACTIVITY: Diving

CASE: [GSAF 1975.03.13](#)

DATE: Thursday March 13, 1975

LOCATION: Southport Aquarium, Queensland, Australia.

NAME: William Hookway

DESCRIPTION: He was an 18-year-old male from Southport. He was wearing a rubber wetsuit and face mask.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, March 13, 1975

NARRATIVE: The diver was attempting to haul a shark to the surface where it could be force-fed when it swung around and lacerated his thigh.

INJURY: The diver sustained four gashes to his right thigh.

SPECIES: The incident involved a six-foot captive shark which had been netted three weeks earlier and had not fed while in captivity.

TREATMENT: The diver was taken to Southport Hospital where his injuries were stitched and he was released.

SOURCES: The Age (Melbourne), March 14, 1975, page 1; J. Green, page 36

Sick shark attacks tank diver

BRISBANE.—A sick shark bit a diver at a Gold Coast oceanarium yesterday.

The diver, William Hookway, 19, of Minnie Street Southport, works at Sea World on The Spit at Southport.

Wearing a rubber wetsuit and mask, Hookway was in the oceanarium which holds several grey nurse sharks up to 8 ft. long, sea turtles and other sea creatures.

He was attacked by a 6-ft. bronze whaler which he was trying to bring to the surface of the big tank for force-feeding.

The shark had been netted three weeks ago and had not eaten since.

It bit through Hookway's thick rubber suit and its teeth gashed his right thigh in four places.

Hookway swam to the surface.

He was taken to Southport Hospital and left after his wounds were stitched.

A Sea World spokesman said it was believed the shark had been injured internally when it was netted.

It was destroyed after its attack on Hookway.

"We destroyed it, not for what it did to Bill, but to put it out of its misery," the spokesman said.