

ACTIVITY: Fishing for tope and skates
CASE: [GSAF 1981.06.15.R](#)
DATE: Reported Monday June 15, 1981
LOCATION: Off the Isle of Wight, England

BOAT: A 23-foot boat with a 9-foot beam.

NARRATIVE: See press clipping

INJURY: Two of the fishermen sustained minor injuries; one was cut on his nose by the shark's tail, and another had a bruised leg

SPECIES: The incident involved a thresher shark, 13 feet in length with a mass of 400 pounds.

SOURCE: The Times (London), Monday, June 15, 1981, page 4



Shark dies in attack on anglers

From Our Correspondent
Portsmouth

A 400lb shark was killed yesterday as it leapt at a small fishing boat off the south coast. Two fishermen were injured and the boat was damaged when the shark landed across the deck.

The incident happened off the Isle of Wight. Mr Ross Staplehurst, a local fisherman, had taken a party of anglers for a day's fishing in his 23ft boat, the Albatross. They were fishing for tope and skate when the thresher shark, 13 ft long, was sighted about 50 yards away.

Mr. Staplehurst said: "It turned towards the boat and dived. Everything was quiet for a moment and we thought it had swum away. Then there was a great rushing noise and suddenly the shark came surging out of the water, about five yards away.

"It landed across the boat, which is only 9ft wide, so its head and tail were sticking over each end. The impact nearly sank the boat and it killed the shark outright."

One of the fishermen was hit by the shark's tail and his nose was cut. Another had a bruised leg. The Albatross sailed back to Bembridge, Isle of Wight, where the shark is to be sold to fishmongers.

Mr Staplehurst said: "I have fished these waters for 10 years but have never seen a shark act like this. It just went berserk. I'm convinced it was attacking the boat."