

ACTIVITY: Fishing

CASE: [GSAF 1985.10.05](#)

DATE: Saturday October 5, 1985

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Gulf of Mexico at Gulf Shores, Baldwin County, Alabama, USA.

NAME: Bruce Doss

DESCRIPTION: He is a police officer in the Birmingham suburb of Trussville.

BACKGROUND

TIME: Night

NARRATIVE: Bruce Doss and three companions were fishing from a pier when an elderly man hooked the shark but was unable to pull it in. Doss took the man's line and brought the shark alongside the pier until it was close to the shore. Then he got down on the beach and had

reeled the shark up to shore when the line snapped. When Doss grabbed the shark's tail to keep it from getting away, the shark 'flip-flopped' and bit him above the ankle. "I ran away when it bit me, and when I did that, I pulled (the shark) about 10 feet onto the shore," he said. Doss wiggled his leg free from the shark's jaws and used his pocketknife to free his pants leg.

INJURY: "It bit all the way to the bone, on the front and back side of my leg," said Doss.

TREATMENT: Some 82 sutures were required to repair the injury.

SPECIES: Not identified, but the shark was six feet in length and weighed 100 pounds.

SOURCES: Syracuse Herald, Thursday October 10, 1985
Pacific Stars and Stripes (Tokyo, Japan), Tuesday October 15, 1985

NOTE: This is a provoked incident; it involved a hooked shark.

Man aiding fisherman bitten by shark

GULF SHORES, Ala. (AP) — Bruce Doss, recovering from a bite to his leg that required 82 stitches, said the next time he gets a chance to pull a shark by the tail, "I'll be more careful."

Doss, a police officer in the Birmingham suburb of Trussville, said he and three buddies were fishing from a pier in Gulf Shores when an elderly man hooked the shark, but didn't have the stamina to pull it in.

Doss took the man's line and worked the six-foot, 100-pound shark along the pier until the fish was close to shore. He got down on the beach and had the shark reeled up to the shore when the line snapped.

When he grabbed the shark's tail to keep it from getting away, the fish "flip-flopped" and bit him above the ankle.

"It bit it all the way to the bone, on the front and back side of my leg," Doss said. "I ran away when it bit me, and when I did that, I pulled (the shark) about 10 feet onto the shore."

Doss wiggled his leg free of the shark's jaws, but had to use a pocketknife to free his pants leg. After he got free, one of his friends nudged the shark's head with a large limb, but a police officer finally killed the shark with a bullet to the head.