

ACTIVITY: Spearfishing
CASE: GSAF 1989.06.17
DATE: Saturday June 17, 1989
LOCATION: The incident took place in the Gulf of Mexico off Cocodrie, Louisiana, USA.

NAME: Carl Loe
DESCRIPTION: He is a 45-year old male, a Slidell furniture retailer.

BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT: They were diving an oil rig.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 40 miles

DEPTH OF WATER: Slightly more than 100 feet

DEPTH AT WHICH INCIDENT TOOK PLACE: 100 feet



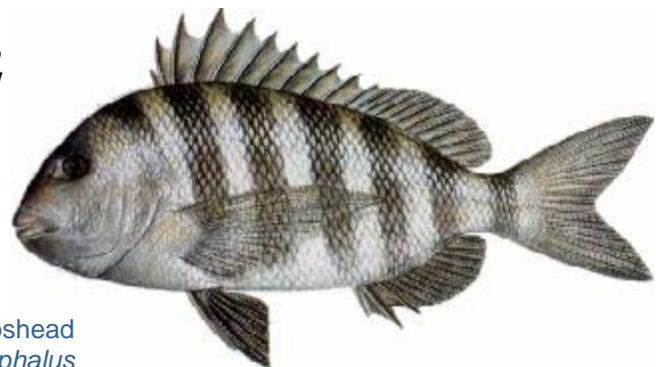
NARRATIVE: Carol Loe and his partner, Arthur Bukaskey, were at a depth of 100 feet, hunting fish between the pipes of an oil rig, when they spotted a 150-pound shark. Bukaskey shot the shark and it fled, towing the diver until he brought the shark to the surface. Meanwhile, Loe shot a small sheepshead. Seconds later, a shark grabbed his leg. Using the butt of his speargun, he rammed the shark’s snout several times until it released him. He swam to the surface and the boat.

INJURY: The diver sustained multiple puncture wounds and lacerations on his right leg and some on his left leg.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: On board the boat, Loe’s 15-year-old son, Carl Loe III, worked to stop the bleeding and radioed for assistance. The diver was airlifted to Ochner Hospital where doctors said he should make a full recovery. “The statistics [of shark attacks] are so rare and so extreme that I don’t think its going to keep me from diving,” said Loe. “I may be quite a bit more cautious from now on though.”

SPECIES INVOLVED: According to the diver, the incident involved a sand tiger shark 1.8 metres [6'] in length.

SOURCES: The Daily Herald, June 21, 1989, Alex MacCormick, pages 72 - 74, citing New Orleans Times-Picayune, June 20, 1989.



Sheepshead
Archosargus probatocephalus

Man survives shark attack

NEW ORLEANS — Carl Loe, 45, watched his spearfishing partner shoot a 150-pound shark, and then felt the heavy jaws of a second shark clamp onto his leg. "When I turned and looked, there was nothing but teeth embedded in my leg," he said Monday. Loe was more than 100 feet underwater in the Gulf of Mexico when the 6-foot shark attacked. "My only reaction was to punch him in the nose and get him off," said Loe. He slammed the butt of his speargun into the shark's nose until it let go.

The Daily Herald, June 21, 1989