

ACTIVITY: Spearfishing

CASE: [GSAF 1998.08.23.R](#)

DATE: Reported August 23, 1998

LOCATION: The accident took place in the Atlantic Ocean off Virginia Beach, Virginia, USA.

NAME: Unknown

DESCRIPTION: Male

BACKGROUND

DEPTH OF WATER: 60 feet

NARRATIVE: See email below

INJURY: Lacerations to left hand

TREATMENT: Some 60 stitches were required.

SPECIES: The accident involved a dusky shark, 12 feet in length.

<http://www.ozemail.com.au/~bilsons/Sharks&htm>

FIRST SHARK ATTACK OFF VIRGINIA BEACH IN 25 YEARS

Emailed - August 23rd 1998

I was the Captain of the boat and the dive buddy of when my friend was bitten by a 12 foot Dusky off the Virginia coast this weekend. We were shooting tautog off a wreck at 60 feet when we came face to face with the dusky. My buddy put his hands up to protect himself and I think the shark took that as a move of aggression and grabbed his left hand up to the wrist.

He was trying to pull free while I was beating the creature in the nose and eyes with my spear gun. He just let go after about 20 seconds of just holding his hand in his mouth. We tried making ourselves part of wreck while the shark circled and I let the spear gun go with the fish just recently speared. Thank God the shark was more interested in the fish than us. It appears no permanent damage resulted to my buddy's hand, just 60 stitches.

Dan

Norfolk, Virginia