

MORE SHARKS TAKEN IN NEARBY WATERS

Large Specimens Caught Off
Jersey and Long Island Coasts
and Many Others Seen.

GOVERNMENT JOINS HUNT

Bounty for Man-Eaters Proposed—
Matawan Boy's Body Scars Show
Fish's Mouth 14 Inches Wide.

While the sharks which have been seen in Matawan Creek, N. J., where two bathers were killed and one maimed on Wednesday, have not been scathed so far by the intensive hunt for them in the narrow stream, several large sharks were caught yesterday along the New Jersey coast not far from the mouth of the creek, and in waters near Long Island.

One or more of the man-eaters may be among them. Cutting them open is not likely to show whether they have attacked men. In only one of the cases has a shark removed a limb from a victim, and then it is believed that the fish took only the flesh. Their jaws and teeth are not strong enough to bite through bone, according to students of sharks, though they are able, as in the case of George Bruder, to take off a leg. A shark can do this by ripping the flesh away from the bone and snapping the bone with a fling of its head.

The body of Lester Stilwell, the 10-year-old boy whose body disappeared after a shark attacked him in Matawan Creek on Wednesday, was found to be bitten in seven places after it rose to the surface yesterday. The shark at each bite had ripped away flesh, but his teeth had only scraped the bones. Four of the bites were on the body, two on the left leg and one on the right.

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Mouth Fourteen Inches Wide.

An examination of the body of Stanley Fisher, who was mortally bitten in Matawan Creek on the same day, showed that the teeth of the shark had clinched on the bone of his right thigh, but had glanced off, leaving several scratches. A measurement of the wound showed that the distance between the teeth on the left and on the right side of the shark's mouth was fourteen inches, indicating that the man-eater was probably considerably more than nine feet in length, which is the estimate of those who saw it.

A Coast Guard cutter will probably be sent today to the vicinity of the mouth of Matawan Creek and other beaches where the man-eaters have been active. This was announced at Washington after a Cabinet meeting at which the subject was discussed. Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Newton said that the Coast Guard would first try to establish whether there were actually large numbers of sharks menacing the Jersey Coast, or whether only a few voracious fish from Southern waters had made their way north. If it is found that the man-eaters are present in numbers, Mr. Newton said there was little hope that Coast Guard cutters or a patrol of motorboats could accomplish anything. No definite plan has been worked out. Secretary of Commerce Redfield told the Cabinet that the Bureau of Fisheries has been unable to offer any scientific explanation of the unprecedented attack on human beings by sharks in cold waters.

Shark Caught in Bluefish Net.

The biggest shark caught yesterday was one measuring more than eight feet and weighing 250 pounds which was taken by Captain Paul Tarnow and a crew of three men after a long struggle about a mile off Belford, N. J. The shark had followed a school of bluefish into the net and got himself enmeshed by the time the fishermen began to haul in. The big fish thrashed furiously, but was stunned with clubs and boathooks and finally lifted into the boat. Twelve small sharks were found in the stomach. The shark was of a bluish color with a white belly, the type usually found in these waters. It was of the man-eating variety, in the opinion of fishermen and sailors, who insist that the recent attacks were made by ordinary sharks grown desperate through shortage of food.

There was much shooting and harpooning at sharks in Matawan Creek yesterday. All day there were shouts of "Shark!" from parties in rowboats and on shore. Rifle firing and spearing followed, but no sharks were taken. When it was thought that the shark had eluded pursuit by hiding at the bottom of

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a deep hole, Chief L. S. Emmons of the Fire Department of Matawan would be summoned to set off a blast of dynamite. This was done repeatedly, but resulted only in killing a few small fish. This practice was disapproved yesterday by Dr. F. A. Lucas, Director of the American Museum of Natural History, who thought that it did not endanger the sharks, but would fill the creek with dead fish, which are attractive to sharks.

Sharks Still in the Creek.

Circumstantial evidence, in addition to that of many eyewitnesses, that sharks were still in the creek was offered yesterday by the condition of one of the three wire nets stretched across the stream. It was found twisted and pulled loose from its moorings, as if a shark had broken through.

The body of Lester Stilwell was found resting against the shore 100 yards upstream from the place where he was drowned. The discovery was made at 5:30 by William Clayton and Albert Smith of Matawan. It was removed by Undertaker William E. Arrowsmith after he had obtained the permission of the county authorities. The seven bites on the boy's body might have been made by a small shark, but are believed to have been the work of a large one which was prevented by bones from using all of his teeth in making a bite.

John D. Dunn, the twelve-year-old boy who was bitten in the left leg on Wednesday in Matawan creek, is getting better in St. Peter's Hospital, New Brunswick. No infection has set in, and the leg will probably be saved, although the boy is likely to walk with a limp. The shark's teeth dragged the flesh away from both sides of the shin-bone from the knee to the ankle, but did not sever a tendon or destroy an important muscle. Young Dunn told his nurse yesterday that sharks were cowards after all, because the one which bit his left leg had let go and fled when he kicked and splashed with his right.

Acting Commissioner Moore of the Bureau of Fisheries issued a statement yesterday that no certain preventive measures against sharks were known, and that bathers ought to stay in shallow water inside the breakers and keep away from inlets and channels while the shark-catching campaign was going on. He continued:

"The officials of the Bureau of Fisheries have been giving careful consideration to measures for the prevention of attacks of sharks on bathers, but reluctantly have been compelled to decide that no certainly effective steps can be recommended.

Tells How to Catch Sharks.

"The most reasonable suggestion is that an effort be made to catch the sharks, either by trolling from boats or with baited shark hooks, buoyed to within two or three feet of the surface and securely attached by stout lines to anchored buoys or barrels at intervals of four or five hundred yards outside the life lines. This would serve the double purpose of catching the predatory fish and of giving warning of their presence in a particular locality.

"There are always a few sharks off the coast, particularly in Summer, but the recent tragedies are entirely unprecedented in temperate waters, although the bureau has had reliable reports of similar occurrences in the tropics.

"There are no 'man-eaters' in the sense of implying exclusive or common addiction to a diet of human flesh. The sharks as a whole are promiscuous flesh-eaters, living principally on live fish, but ready to eat any animal matter, dead or alive. Under stress of hunger they become quite bold, and while it is impossible to make a positive statement to that effect, it is probable that a few individuals, temporarily deprived of their ordinary food, have been driven to attack prey which ordinarily they would avoid."

Superintendent Cole of the Coast Guard district said that the man-eaters were probably a few big sharks which had been cut out by a storm from the fringe of the Gulf Stream and straggled to the Jersey coast, hungry and looking for food of any kind. He said that steel nets ought to be effective in protecting beaches.

Many Sharks Reported.

Boatmen reported at Stamford, Conn., yesterday that they had seen four or five big sharks off Collender's Point, just east of Stamford, where there are several bathing beaches. A number of sharks were reported in Barnegat Bay, where members of a boating party believe that James Ridgely had a narrow escape from a man-eater. Alderman

William C. Wilson of Newark and James L. Tooker, who were in a motor-boat fishing near the shore, shouted to Ridgely, who was treading clams, that a shark was near him. Ridgely swam swiftly to the boat and got there safely. Just as he entered the boat a big fin appeared in his wake, according to Alderman Wilson.

Captains and officers of Atlantic liners report seeing numbers of sharks from fifteen to twenty-five feet long between Cape Sable and Sandy Hook, which is far out of the waters which sharks ordinarily haunt.

Dr. F. A. Lucas, Director of the American Museum of Natural History, the great authority on sharks in this country, said yesterday that he did not know how to account for the sudden appearance of man-eaters in local waters. The work of these sharks, which has overthrown many of the theories of scientists on the subject, emphasized, he said, the fact that comparatively little was known about sharks and makes timely the suggestion that an expedition be fitted out to study them in tropical waters.

Beyond the use of wire netting and the hunting of man-eaters, Dr. Lucas said he knew of no remedy for the shark scourge. He said that he could advise bathers of no way to defend themselves except to frighten the sharks.

Dr. Lucas said there had been some misunderstanding of his expressions as to the habits of sharks. He did not say that sharks never attack men—he only said such attacks were rare. His studies, he said, had revealed only one fairly well authenticated case in a great many years, and in that instance the man was not killed.

Calls This Shark Year.

"The nearest I can come to accounting for the sudden preying of these fishes," he went on, "is to say that this is a 'shark year,' just as we have butterfly years and army worm years.

"As for the theory that some have advanced that a school of giant turtles has been storm-carried into these waters and is responsible for the devastation, the nature of the injuries to the victims disposes of that supposition. Turtles have no such tearing apparatus as would be needed to do the ripping and cutting the bodies of the victims show.

"The shark, on the other hand, has powerful, sharp, serrated teeth, which inflict the ugliest of wounds. Swords or spears made of these teeth, which one finds in the New Hebrides, are so sharp it is difficult even to handle them without cutting one's self. The shark's teeth, while their several rows are powerful and dangerous, are not well set. For this reason there are usually several pulled out when a shark takes the hook."

A resolution was introduced in the House of Representatives yesterday by Representative Bacharach of New Jersey, appropriating \$5,000 to fight man-eating sharks. The Paterson Chamber of Commerce sent a letter to Governor Fielder of New Jersey yesterday asking that bounties be offered for the capture of sharks at the following rates: One hundred-pound shark, \$2; 200-pound, \$5; 300-pound, \$10; 400-pound, \$25; 500-pound, \$50.

The work of enclosing the beach at the Manhattan Beach Baths with strong wire was finished yesterday. Similar precautions have been taken by many other bathing establishments on Long Island and the New Jersey coast.