



North Carolina Shark Attacks Project

Note: The following article describes an unconfirmed shark attack that occurred May 31st, 1992, near the wreck of the *U-352* off Cape Lookout in Carteret County. The article appeared in the *Wilmington Morning Star*, June 19th, 1992.

Chewed scuba gear found where diver disappeared

By **RICHARD F. SMITH**

Jacksonville Daily News

FORT MACON — A ripped diving jacket, attached scuba air tank and chewed air hose have been found in the ocean near a sunken U-boat wreck where a diver disappeared on May 31, a Coast Guard spokesman has confirmed.

"There's a strong possibility it was sharks" that ripped the jacket and damaged the hose, said Boatswain's Mate Keith Evans at the Fort Macon Coast Guard station.

The remains of diver Mike Weathers, 45, of Morganton have not been found.

Mr. Weathers was one of eight divers at the wreck of the German U-352 U-boat. The site is on the ocean floor about 20 miles south of Beaufort Inlet.

Diver Brian Thomason of Newport found the buoyancy-compensation jacket, tank and attached small "pony bottle" air tank on the ocean bottom Sunday, Boatswain's Mate Evans said. The equipment was turned over to the Coast Guard.

Mr. Weathers reportedly had a pony bottle when he disappeared. The location of the gear also indicates it may have belonged to Mr. Weathers, Boatswain's Mate Evans said.

The right side of the jacket was torn and ripped and an air hose was chewed in half, Mr. Evans said.

The wreck of the U-352 lies in about 200 feet of water. The search for Mr. Weathers by the Coast Guard and a Marine Corps helicopter was suspended on June 1.