



North Carolina Shark Attacks Project

Note: The following is an article that describes a shark attack on a boat that occurred on August 25th, 1936, in the waters of Pamlico Sound off Hatteras Island near Frisco in Dare County. This article appeared in the *Greensboro Record*, August 25th, 1936.

Two 13-Year Old Youths Battle Maddened Sharks

FRISCO. Aug. 25.—(AP)—Two 13-year-old boys related a tale here of how they battled a school of maddened sharks from a rowboat, bagged one and escaped.

And they displayed the big fish to prove their story.

The boys, James Mitchell-Hedges, son of F. A. Mitchell-Hedges, an explorer and big game fisherman, and Raymond McHenry set out in the shallow waters of Pamlico sound off Hatteras island towing a rowboat. They went to a net they had set about 100 yards offshore in waistdeep water.

While taking small fish from the net one of the boys spied a triangular fin cutting through the water toward them. They hopped into the boat just as the shark swished by, the youths said.

They said the fish swam around the tiny craft, lashing up spray with its tail. It smashed the bow of the boat and tore the beading off the sides. The shark then left but came back shortly with 10 other huge sharks, which swam around and around the boat so closely, the boys said, they could have struck the fish with the oars.

One shark finally became enmeshed in the net.

Quickly the boys loosed the net from its mooring and started rowing for shore, towing the imprisoned shark. They said the other sharks followed to within a few feet of the shore.

The captured fish measured 11 feet in length and weighed approximately 700 pounds. The jaws were four feet, seven inches in circumference.