

# Deep Sea Safari

At the top of the page an intrepid crew sets out on the shark hunt. In the rear of the boat is the protective cage used in the underwater search. At left, Captain Bill

Goldschmidt gets an able assist from Jane Von Hahmann with the captured mammal. At bottom right, from left to right, successful shark hunters Beverly Scolley,

Jane Von Hahmann, Sherrie Kinney, expedition leader, Captain Bill Goldschmidt, and Kathy Ball maintain a firm grip on their vanquished foe. Photos by Frank Ross



For more than four decades, scientists have been searching for an effective shark repellent. Captain Bill Goldschmitt simply searches for ways to attract sharks. Knowledgeable and articulate, Captain Bill has been associated with Mote Marine, the Seaquarium in Miami and other laboratories, supplying them with live specimens. Currently he offers the ultimate in high sea adventure — a shark hunt, with the happy hunting ground barely ten miles away from Longboat Key.

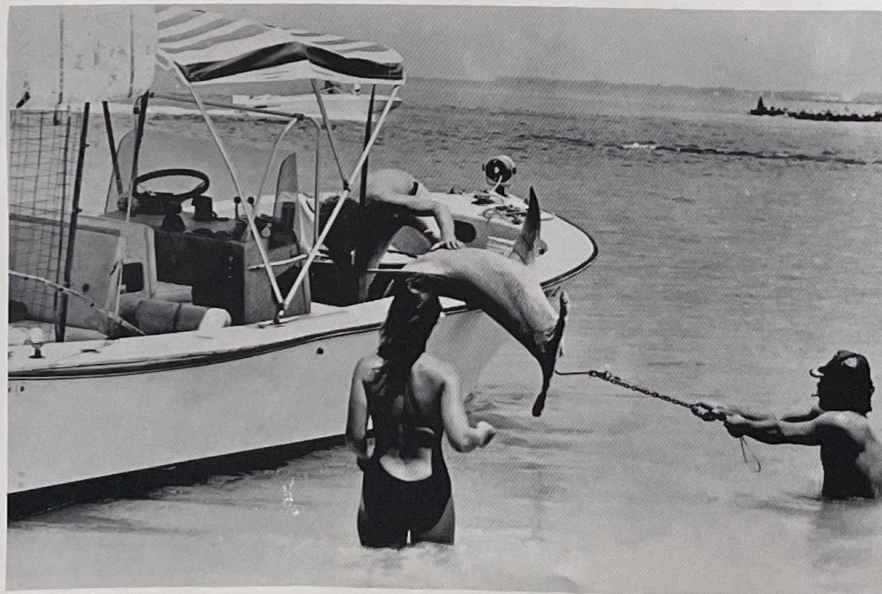
On a recent bright, windy day, Captain Bill with First Mate Jeff Clark (a recent convert to shark hunting) took four enthusiastic young women on their first deep sea adventure. The four were Kathy Ball, Beverly Scollay, Sherrie Kinney and Jane Von Hahmann.

Goldschmitt and Clark had put baited lures out the night before, and these had accomplished their purpose. The first shark sighted hadn't quite taken the bait and got away, but not before passengers and crew had an eye-filling view of his powerful jaws and mammoth body. The second, completely captive, was a large hammerhead. He had really taken the bait and all his 600 pounds were well subdued on the line. Third and last was a feisty young tiger shark who was barely hooked and fighting fiercely to be free.

A protective cage had been lashed to the side of the boat and Captain Bill took his bikini clad passengers, one at a time, down into the cage for a closer look at this monster of the deep. The protective cage was designed as a place of safety to encounter sharks face first with a well-aimed camera.

This young shark lived up to his name — not only the shadowy stripes visible on his smooth-slick body, but in disposition — he was a tiger! Three times he attempted to enter the cage through the small camera opening at front and three

Shark hunter Sherrie Kinney disembarks at Beer Can Island. In the middle photo a young shark bares his teeth and reveals extra buried incisors that enable sharks to keep a biting edge. In the bottom photo, Jane Von Hahmann watches the unloading of the Hammerhead. the bottom of page 23, left to right, Beverly Scollay, Jane Von Hahmann, Captain Bill Goldschmitt, Kathy Ball and Sherrie Kinney are pleased with the results of the day's safari.



times Captain Bill lived up to his fame and name by pushing the monster back. Bill claims sharks are much like vicious dogs — they respond to a quick, sharp blow on the nose and a confident attitude.

However, no amount of confidence could have avoided an encounter with that rapidly twisting, turning shark and Bill's arm which, at a wrong moment, was outside the cage was scraped by this thrashing, fast-swimming behemoth and immediately began to bleed profusely, which seemed to further excite Mr. Tiger.

After long minutes, the tiger shark was played out and both he and the hammerhead, with great difficulty, were brought and beached on Beer Can Island. Here there was an opportunity to see and feel (fearlessly) these large and potentially dangerous mammals.

Tough and durable, these sharks, in common with many other species, have several rows of long, sharp teeth with all rows except one or two folded back on the jaws. So that as teeth are lost, others instantly replace them. The scales that cover the body of the shark are hard, hard enough when rubbed forward to use as a most effective sandpaper. Shark skin is often used in the manufacture of handbags and shoes and it qualifies as both durable and ex-

pensive. The liver is used for "cod" liver oil and when properly prepared, shark meat is a delicious food.

There are many species of shark. There are the "good" ones like the whale and basking shark, but most of the others are vicious and greedy including the bull and the great white (of course you remember "Bruce", the great white clone, who performed so ignobly in "Jaws"). Then to mention a few more there are the lemon, blue, hammerhead and, of course, the tiger. The poor hammerhead does look as though its head had been flattened by a massive blow with strange eyes set into the ends of the flat, wide head. How can he see what's coming or going with that faraway look? A close-up of this monster is the stuff for nightmares.

It is true that most sharks look vicious, but probably they aren't quite as mean as they look. But don't be misled and don't try a handfeed one. They will bite the hand that feeds them and enjoy doing it. Contrary to popular belief, sharks do not swim within a few hundred feet of Gulf beaches waiting for unwary swimmers, but it is true that they are nocturnal creatures who feed at night and since splashing might attract them, this is not the time to enjoy a swim in the surf.

If you'd like the thrill and excitement of hunting a shark, get in touch with Captain Bill Goldschmitt, P.O. Box 1302, Sarasota, 33578. Bill guarantees to help you make a face-to-face encounter with a shark and get pictures to match.

The latest success story in shark repellents is soap. Two man-made detergents have caused sharks to turn away, shake their heads, and lose their equilibrium. The detergents mimic the defense system of the Moses sole, a flounder-like fish found in the Red Sea. When attacked, the sole fights back by squirting out a milky substance called pardaxin.

Even in small quantities pardaxin is so toxic that sharks lock their jaws in mid-bite, in larger doses it apparently destroys sensory organs and causes death. Sarasota's own Dr. Eugenie Clark, a marine biologist now with the University of Maryland, made the discovery about the Moses sole but it took four years to isolate the pardaxin. This substance shares many chemical similarities with industrial surfactants, a chemical in detergents. But while it's working in the laboratory, more time is needed to prove and perfect it, so don't load your bubble pipe with soap and take it out yet. (Photos by Frank Ross)

— Jane Sheets

