

Boot, Shirt, or Tin Can Will Satisfy Hungry Shark



New Haven—(AP)—If a shark hankers for a hunk of your leg, throw him an old boot. Or a shirt, or tin cans, or whatever comes handy. It will satisfy his appetite. This helpful hint is contained in a recent book, "Fishes of the Western North Atlantic," published by the Sears Foundation for Marine Research at Yale University's Bingham Oceanographic Laboratory.

It adds that, contrary to popular belief, attempts to drive a shark away by blows or by splashing water "are likely to be futile" if the man in the water is bleeding.

The book, first of a series, deals with the most primitive forms of fishes, including sharks, lancelets, lampreys, and hagfishes. The series is designed to bring together all the results of scientific study of the last 50 years of various fishes. There are 225 to 250 known spe-

cies of sharks, it goes on. But most are either too small, too lazy, too weakly armed or live too deep to bother man.

But there are numerous "proverbially voracious" sharks that attack man, including the white shark ("beyond question the most dangerous"), the tiger shark, lemon shark, and larger hammerhead sharks. The fiercer of the larger ones get excited by blood in the water, and then will attack fish, whales or man. About half of Australia's shark attacks have ended fatally.

"To class sharks 'harmless' as a group, as some authors have done, is contrary to all the weight of evidence. On the other hand, the danger of attack to the ordinary bather is very small indeed, except in special localities and under special conditions."

Covering The Waterfront

By Aycock Brown

Bodie Island, N. C.—The keeper's house at the lighthouse here has been abandoned which adds to the loneliness one feels while driving over the crooked sand road (marked "Private Property—Keep Off") that leads from the new paved highway between Nags Head and Oregon Inlet. The keeper's residence is abandoned because Bodie Island lighthouse like most of those along the coast today has been made automatic.

Upkeep of the beacon and power plant which cuts the light in the tower on and off at dawn and twilight is now the job of the Coast Guard at Nags Head station several miles up the beach. What will happen to the well built keeper's house is anybody's guess. Sometimes the government (owner of such properties) offers same for sale to become clubhouses, summer cottages or permanent residences. Maybe that has already been done with the keeper's house at Bodie Island, but the new owner, if there is one, is surely not taking very good care of the property. The doors are unlocked and inside the rooms are vacant. The grass has grown high in the yard and the fence which once surrounded the house and light house is now partially down or hidden from view by the white and red myrtles which form sort of a jungle around the properties.

Bodie Island lighthouse is one of six along the 320 miles of ocean front on the North Carolina coast today. Each of the lights have their own individuality. Corolla on Currituck Beach is the site of a brick structure, dull red or natural in color. The tower here when seen by mariners during daylight is dis-

tinguished by its white and black horizontal stripes. Cape Hatteras, some 40 miles south of Bodie Island, is identified by its black and white spiral stripes. Ocracoke, where the tower is now having its face lifted, is a 75 foot high solid white tower. Cape Lookout at the lower tip of Core Banks has black and white diamonds and Cape Fear is a skeleton-steel structure.

The present tower here, 163 feet high, is not the original Bodie Island lighthouse. The first, a brick structure, was built 2,800 feet south of the present tower in 1848—the same year a great storm opened an inlet that was to be named Oregon. The original tower, like many others along the coast was destroyed during the Civil War. At about the same time the original structure here was destroyed Fort Oregon had been established at the inlet for the duration of the war.

The present lighthouse was erected in 1872. Its beacon, 160,000 candlepower, can be seen 19 miles seaward on a clear night. While the present Bodie Island lighthouse was under construction five sailing vessels were wrecked nearby. Since that time there have been few shipwrecks close by Bodie Island, which speaks well for the warning service the beacon has given. The new highway passes about 1/2 mile east of the structure and now motorists visiting Oregon Inlet can get a closeup view of the 163-foot tower.

A murrelet, ancient species of small water bird that lives in the far north, was recently found near Bend, Ore. It was the first of the species ever to be reported alive in Oregon.

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