

## Incredible Fishing Stories

# Out Of The Frying Pan Into The Fire

from "Incredible Fishing Stories" by Shaun Morey

On June 10, 1989, Bruce Hake was aboard the charter boat *Qualifier 105*, fishing near San Benedicto Island, 500 miles south of the tip of Baja, California. It was wahoo country. Clean, blue and deep.

Hake was fishing from the stern with four or five other hopeful anglers while the chum man, standing atop the bait tank, flunk fresh anchovies into the sea. Schools of game fish circled the boat.

"I threw out my favorite wahoo jig as far as I could," Hake said, "and was reeling it in when my line went slack. Wahoo have razor-sharp teeth, so I thought I'd been biten off."



But as Hake reeled in the slack line, a wahoo - with Hake's jig dangling from its mouth - shot out of the water 35 feet from the stern. The wahoo flew directly at the boat, and as Hake ducked, the fish soared over his head.

"I heard a loud splash," Hake said, "and when I turned around to see what had happened, there was my wahoo swimming in the bait tank with my jig still in its mouth!"

## MAKO CRISIS (from page 31)

The U.S. has an active recreational fishery, and its current recreational delegate to ICCAT is a very strong advocate for the recreational fishing industry. In addition to that, the United States has a decidedly checkered history when it comes to shortfin mako conservation; when the parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species decided to include the shortfin mako on its appendix of protected species last August, the United States was one of the few nations that opposed the move.

Thus, the shortfin mako's future remains very much in doubt.

We can only hope that fisheries managers, both here and at ICCAT, extend appropriate protections before the fastest, and arguably the most beautiful, shark in the sea disappears.

*Charles Witek, from Greenwich CT, has spent over 50 years on the water, and is a well-known author and blogger. Witek said, "I have realized that without strong fisheries laws and effective conservation measures, the future of salt water fishing, and America's living marine resources, is dim."*

## TIDAL POWER (from page 7)

BTTS has hosted other marine equipment, including commercial fishing nets and soon will gather data for aquatic sensors that monitor microplastics and algae linked to toxic blooms.

MRECo is seeking \$200,000 to upgrade the power and internet capability of BTTS to accommodate testing of additional marine sensors and instruments.

At URI, the ocean-energy research labs and indoor wave tank have broadened their study areas to include the offshore wind industry.

Professor M. Reza Hashemi said wave and tidal power are some of the oldest forms of energy but have yet to be proven commercially viable in New England, primarily because water currents aren't strong enough.

"There is hope, but it needs a lot help," Hashemi said.

Wave and tidal energy are more promising on the West Coast and in the United Kingdom, where the currents are much stronger, he said.

But local tidal- and wave-energy efforts haven't stopped. The massive tides in the Gulf of Maine and North Atlantic are drawing demonstration projects supported by research from URI and the University of New Hampshire, among others.

Hashemi also co-authored a [textbook](#) about wind, tidal, and wave energy. For now, he is conducting research on the impacts of hurricanes on wind turbines. But Hashemi and URI remain dedicated to hydrokinetic energy. The university recently received \$148,000 from The Champlin Foundation for a new ocean-energy flume, a type of indoor wave tank designed for testing small-scale wave- and tidal-energy devices.

"Wave and tidal energy are still at the early stages of development," Hashemi said. "They are not yet at the commercial stage."

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