

Many Politicians Lie. But Trump Has Elevated the Art of Fabrication. TRUMP RULES Under Trump, Coal Mining Gets New Life on U.S. Lands. Transgender African-Americans' Open Wound: 'We're Considered a Joke' PAID POST: SLACK Office Physics: How to Wrangle Time, Space and Knowledge. slack Detroit's Mayoral Election Is a Test of Recovery and Legacy

U.S.

Video of Shark, Seemingly Bound and Dragged by a Boat, Under Investigation

By JACEY FORTIN JULY 27, 2017



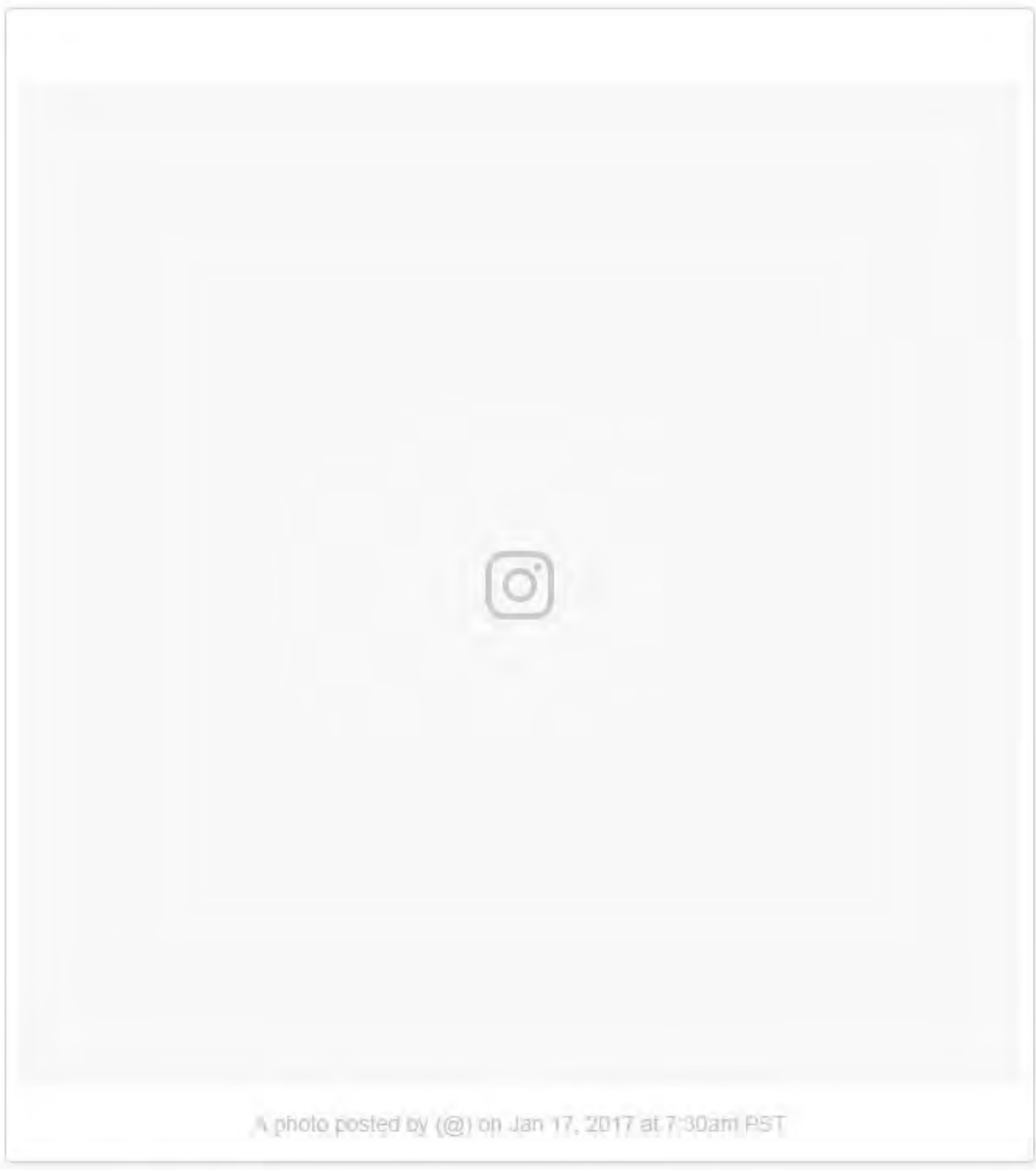
A blacktip shark near Puerto Ayora, Ecuador, in March. Mark Quartiano, a shark fisherman, said the shark in the video appeared to be a blacktip. Federico Rios Escobar for The New York Times

RELATED COVERAGE

- Michael Phelps 'Raced' a 'Shark,' Kind Of. Not Really. JULY 24, 2017
- INTERACTIVE QUIZ How to Stay Safe in the Great Outdoors JULY 25, 2017
- 5 Travel Reads for Shark Week JULY 25, 2017

The video is short but disturbing: In about 10 seconds, it seems to show a shark flipping chaotically across the water as it is dragged, on a rope, behind a speedboat. At least four people appear to be onboard, watching the spectacle.

The details are hard to make out because the creature is tumbling so quickly over the choppy waters in the boat's wake. It seems to have a grayish body, a white belly and a dorsal fin.



The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is investigating the matter. A spokesman for its law enforcement division said it had identified the people in the video. Their names, and other details about the episode, are not being released while the investigation is underway. So it remains unclear exactly what the creature was, whether it was alive and where the video was taken.

Mark Quartiano — known as Mark the Shark because he leads shark-fishing expeditions — said he received the video on Monday from the men who recorded it via direct message on Instagram. He said the video appeared to show a blacktip shark being dragged by a rope tied around its tail, presumably after it had already been caught with a rod and reel.

"I couldn't believe that someone would send me something like this," he said on Tuesday. "I was horrified."

ADVERTISEMENT

Mr. Quartiano, who is based in Miami, shared the video via [his own Instagram account](#) the day he received it. That post has gained the video attention on social media — it's been viewed more than 53,000 times — and from Florida officials.

"It is too early to speculate as to what, if any, violations took place in this incident," the state's wildlife commission said in an emailed statement.

California Today
The news and stories that matter to Californians (and anyone else interested in the state), delivered weekday mornings.

Enter your email address

You agree to receive occasional updates and special offers for The New York Times's products and services.

I'm not a robot

[SEE SAMPLE](#) | [PRIVACY POLICY](#) | [OPT OUT OR CONTACT US ANYTIME](#)

It added: "The lack of respect shown in this video for our precious natural resources is disheartening and disturbing, and is not representative of conservation-minded anglers around the world."

In Florida, shark fishing is legal, but regulated. Some species cannot be harvested at all; others must have reached a certain length before harvesting is allowed. (Blacktip sharks can be harvested at any length.) Shark fishers sometimes catch sharks only to tag and rerelease them so they can be tracked by scientists.

Mr. Quartiano — who said he has killed thousands of sharks in his decades of shark angling — insisted that the dragging video had "crossed a line." He said sharks sometimes die while being fished from the water, but he could not tell whether the shark in the video was still alive at the time of the recording. He hoped that it was not.

The sharing of this video coincides with [Shark Week](#), an annual event in which the Discovery Channel capitalizes on viewers' love for — and fear of — the often big and sharp-toothed fishes that hunt in our salty waters.

Mr. Quartiano said he also received another file from the men: A photo apparently showing the shark after it had been dragged through the water, with its body torn apart.

"It's just so heartbreaking to see, and everybody I show it to has the same sentiment: 'Why would anybody do that, and then brag about it?'" he said.

FROM OUR ADVERTISERS

- SLACK **Software That Shortens the Workday** How a messaging platform is getting rid of office drudgery.
- AMERICAN EXPRESS **Learn about Chronic Dry Eye** American Express Platinum presents Taste with David Chang.
- SHIRE **Learn about Chronic Dry Eye** The condition may be on the rise in today's high-tech world.
- NORTON **A Cybercriminal's New Target** How hackers have set their sights on your home network.

- RELATED COVERAGE
- Michael Phelps 'Raced' a 'Shark,' Kind Of. Not Really. JULY 24, 2017
 - INTERACTIVE QUIZ How to Stay Safe in the Great Outdoors JULY 25, 2017
 - 5 Travel Reads for Shark Week JULY 25, 2017