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10-foot great white shark brought into Scituate harbor

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The shark was caught in a fisherman's nets in the waters off the South Shore.

SCITUATE — The body of a great white shark was brought into Scituate Harbor on Saturday after it was accidentally caught in a fisherman's nets in the waters off the South Shore.

Lisa Natanson, a Rhode Island shark researcher with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Science Center, and a second scientist, were brought into the harbor to examine the shark and take samples of it for further research. The shark, Natanson said, was caught by fishermen in a gill net, which she said is "basically a panel of net that hangs in the water and catches fish by their gills."

The shark, which was hung from its tail in the harbor in a scene that recalled the classic "Jaws" movies, drew a crowd of curious onlookers Saturday, some of whom took selfies with the animal. John Chisholm, a shark biologist with the state's Division of Marine Fisheries, said the remains of a striped and part of a seal were in the stomach of the shark, an immature 10-foot female great white.

Natanson said the shark was caught accidentally and only brought into Scituate Harbor after the fishermen contacted the proper channels while the shark was still in the net, to see if anyone wanted them to bring the shark in so it could be studied further. Samples taken from the shark included its backbone for aging and biomechanical information, reproductive data and tissues to be looked at for contaminants and DNA.