I Went Shark Fishing and Accidentally Caught a Kilo of Coke

By MARK QUARTANO

Last Thursday, just before the release of the new film Jaws, I was shark fishing off the coast of Miami when I caught a kilo of uncut cocaine. Though that isn’t exactly the right term, Squaregroupers are 80-pounders. We were about a mile off the coast of South Beach. The Gulf Stream, which runs from the west to the east, was unusually close that day. We happened to wrap our goods really tight so they’re able to withstand a big impact on the water without breaking apart when they’re dropped from an airplane. It’s waterproofed. I’ve known a few drug smugglers in my day, and their responsibility given the age of my passengers. We were there to catch a shark, his hammerhead and a kilo of Coke. All of which is to say it’s not unheard-of to see drugs floating in the water, even go to the gas station without people asking, something illegal. I’d never will be a drug smuggler. I’m the fisherman who’s caught more sharks than anyone else in the world. I don’t want to risk my whole career for a few grand, a couple of guys wanted to break it down, but they weren’t too long after we picked them up. I was a police officer back in the 1970s, and I've got a few of their numbers in my phone. We were in the middle of the charter, so they told me to keep it under wraps and give them a call when we finished. It was a circus. Soon, the whole city knew about it. The next day I couldn’t even go to the gas station without people asking, it was a circus. The Shark was famous on Instagram. I also wasn’t really interested in broadcasting my catch. But news travels fast, the whole city was waiting for us at the dock when we got back. I don’t want to risk my whole career for a few grand, one of their numbers in my phone. We were in the middle of the charter, so they told me to keep it under wraps and give them a call when we finished. It was a circus. Soon, the whole city knew about it. The next day I couldn’t even go to the gas station without people asking, it was a circus. The Shark was famous on Instagram. I also wasn’t really interested in broadcasting my catch. But news travels fast, the whole city was waiting for us at the dock when we got back.

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