

This is fishing from the after torpedo tubes. We had this First Class Torpedoman in the after room named Ackerman. He had talked, and I overheard this conversation he had with Captain Polk. Captain Polk was an easy going, laid back captain. He was a good man. And so Ackerman is laying out his fantastic plan on how he can fish out the torpedo tubes. The captain asks "how are you going to get a line out there?" Ackerman says, "you know captain that little pressure gage line that comes out of the torpedo tube door? I'll just replace that with a compression fitting and run my shot line out there." The captain shook his head and said, "look whatever you do back there just keep it safe, damn it".

So Ackerman got his stuff together, got a roll of shot line, got it all fixed up. He takes an empty five-gallon gilly can and he played the line out with some bait on it so the line would get out the torpedo tube. Mind you, the torpedo tube is 23 feet 10 inches long. So he had to get it out. So he wrapped a length of masking tape around it figuring he would blow it out and the masking tape would come off and he'd be ready to go.

There were several attempts at it with no success. He lost some bait and some line and such as that. But finally I'm up on the conning tower on the helm and the captain is on the periscope. We were at periscope depth operating. All of a sudden on the 7MC "Conn - Tubes aft- I got one! The captain comes off the scope and says, " what the hell happened? Tubes aft - Conn - what's going on back there? Ackerman says, " Captain, I caught one, I caught one". He Caught what?

Anyway, the story got embellished a little bit and I didn't see the fish. But they claim they got the fish into the torpedo tube. Now you gotta close the outer doors and blow down the tube and vent the pressure off the tube. They say that when they vented the pressure off the tube, the fish's eyes popped out.

Now here is the good part. This story, I don't know who mailed it in, but it made "All Hands" magazine.