An unusual cause of hemo-pneumothorax

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A 61-year-old fisherman was seriously injured (right hemo-pneumothorax) during a diving accident. He was strongly hit by a garfish sword (Fig. 1) because a garfish shoal was frightened by a motor boat.

The sword was surgically removed (Fig. 2) without damaging either the lung or the surrounding vasculo-nervous structures. Recovery was uneventful.

Figure 1: Thoracic tomodensitometry at hospital admission, showing the garfish sword in the right hemithorax apex. When the garfish sword got stuck in his body, it might have generated serious internal injuries. As a result, removing such a foreign object could have been dangerous because of so many sharp teeth. This CT-scan shows it did not damage neither the nerves nor the vessels.

Figure 2: Postoperatove picture of the garfish sword removed from the thorax. The garfish is a fish found in the Caribbean sea, which has a long sword with two narrow jaws and small sharp teeth.