

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 1984.03.14 / SA-326](#)

DATE: Wednesday March 14, 1984

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Indian Ocean at Inyoni Rocks, Amanzimtoti, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

NAME: Mark Benvick

BACKGROUND

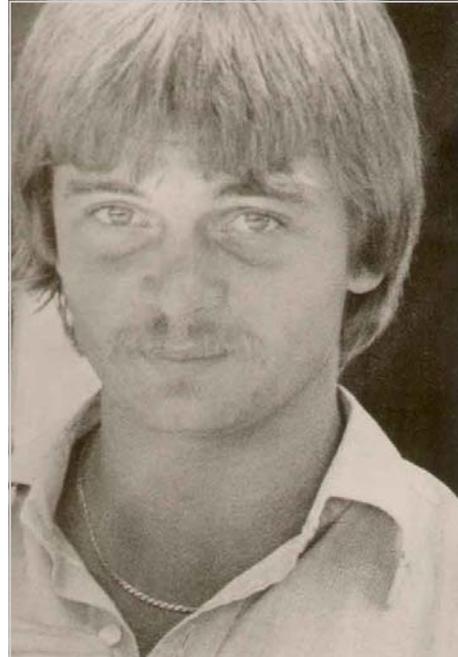
WEATHER: It was a hot sultry day; the temperature soared to 27,6°C, humidity was 95%, but there was an offshore breeze.

SEA CONDITIONS: At 18h00 the Durban surf temperature measured 23°C, and water visibility was two metres.

ENVIRONMENT: An estimated 10,000 dead fish were in the surf zone at Isipingo, nine kilometres to the north. It was thought the kill resulted from factory effluent discharged in to the Isipingo River canal.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 100 metres

TIME: 17h30 (45 minutes before sunset)



NARRATIVE: Mark Benvick was riding the midbreak when he saw small fish jump out of the water nearby. Seconds later his board was jolted. This was followed by seven hard bumps in quick succession.

INJURY: The surfer was not injured.

DAMAGE TO SURFBOARD: There were no toothmarks on the board but there were eight pressure indentations on the underside of the board on the left side, the largest was about five-centimetres in length and two-centimetres deep.

SPECIES: The surfer did not see a shark, and although it was assumed that the damage was caused by a shark it is also possible that a large gamefish may have been responsible. Some times it is difficult to determine if damage to board or a minor injury to a boardrider resulted from contact with a shark, gamefish or submerged debris. Although such cases such as this are kept on file, data from them has not been incorporated into statistics on boardriders.

CASE INVESTIGATORS: Graeme Charter and Marie Levine