

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: **GSFAF 1998.10.18**

DATE: Sunday October 18, 1998

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Indian Ocean at Glengariff, East London, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.

NAME: Liam Victor

DESCRIPTION: He is a 30-year-old male.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, October 20, 1998

NARRATIVE: Liam Victor was enjoying the "warm blue water" with his friend Troy Benn and a number of other surfers. Just 10 minutes after a pod of dolphins passed close by something heavy bumped into his left knee. Assuming he had been hit by a dolphin, he said he had not paused to consider what was in the relatively shallow water beneath him as he caught and surfed a wave.

While heaving himself onto his board after falling off at the end of his ride, he said he felt himself being pulled down. The shark had latched onto the tail of his board. "I saw this fin," he said, estimating it to be about 20 cm high. Meanwhile Troy watched "saw this big black thing shaking in the water" and churning up great bubbles of sand around his friend. "It must have been fairly big ... what saved him is the skeg," he said.

Liam recalls trying to keep his legs out of the water while paddling furiously towards the shore. Describing the sense of relief and "absolute joy" at making the beach, he said: "I am stoked. As I say, there is a God."

INJURY: The surfer was not injured.

DAMAGE TO SURFBOARD: There were deep bite marks in the tail of the surfboard and a damaged skeg.

SPECIES: Not identified.

SOURCE: East London Daily Dispatch, Tuesday, October 20, 1998



Troy Benn points to the tooth marks in Liam Victor's surfboard after his encounter at Glengariff.

Photo by Gary Horlor