

**ACTIVITY:** Snorkeling

**CASE:** [GSAF 2002.12.24](#)

**DATE:** Tuesday December 24, 2002

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Scarborough on the Cape Peninsula, Western Cape Province, South Africa.

**NAME:** Craig Bovim

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 25- or 34-year-old crayfish diver. He was wearing mask, fins & snorkel, wetsuit and a heavy weight-belt.

### BACKGROUND

**MOON PHASE:** Last Quarter, December 27, 2002

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The water was "warm" for the area, and the visibility was "poor".

**ENVIRONMENT:** There are thick beds of kelp in the area.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:** 50 metres

**TIME:** "Just after 12h00"

**NARRATIVE:** Bovim noticed the shark but "didn't pay much attention to it." Then a wave filled his snorkel and he stopped and lifted his head from the water to clear the snorkel. It is unclear what happened next, but apparently shark and man collided. Bovim tried to push the shark away and his hands went down the shark's throat instead. He swam back to shore without assistance. By the time he reached the beach he had lost two litres of blood.

**INJURY:** Bovim's forearms were severely lacerated. The distance between centers of tooth impressions ranged from 50 mm to 55 mm.

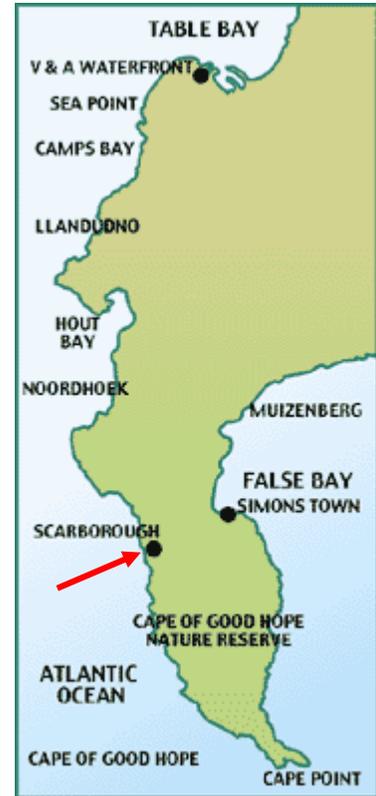
**FIRST AID:** When the diver reached the beach a friend, Mark Botha, notified Metro Rescue Services while a doctor from Scarborough, Charlotte Noble, rendered First Aid.

**TREATMENT:** Bovim was airlifted to the Vincent Pallotti hospital in Pinelands, Cape Town. He sustained considerable loss of function of his right arm.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** According to Bovim, the incident involved a four-metre raggedtooth shark, then he thought it may have involved a cow shark. In a subsequent television movie about attacks by white sharks, Bovim once again revised his opinion, saying the incident involved a 4.5- to 5.5-metre white shark. The distance between tooth impressions suggests that a white shark was involved.

**SOURCE:** IOL.co.za

© Global Shark Accident File, 2002. All rights reserved. This report may not be abridged or reproduced without written permission of the Global Shark Accident File.



*Craig Bovim*

*Photo: Alan Taylor, The Cape Times*