

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** GSAF 2004.10.09.a

**DATE:** Saturday October 9, 2004

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Indian Ocean at Supertubes at Jeffreys Bay, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.

34°03'S, 24°56'E.

**NAME:** Wayne Monk

**DESCRIPTION:** The surfer, a 34-year-old male, weighs 85 kilograms. He has been surfing for 22 years, and is a six-time South African surfing champion. He is the current South African Masters surf champion and owns Just Surfing in Beach Road, Nahoon, East London.

### BACKGROUND

**MOON PHASE:** New Moon, October 13, 2004

**ENVIRONMENT:** Robin de Kock, general manager of Surfing SA, reported that raggedtooth sharks are the most common species of sharks at Jeffreys Bay.

**TIME:** Morning

**NARRATIVE:** Wayne Monk had surfed a clean 1,2m-high wave all the way down the point and had kicked out of the wave. "I kicked out of a wave and must have landed right next to it when it bit me on the foot and pulled me and my board under the water when the shark struck... I thought 'What the hell's going on!' It took me on the right foot and was pulling me under. I saw this big brown thing underneath me and shouted 'I'm being attacked'."

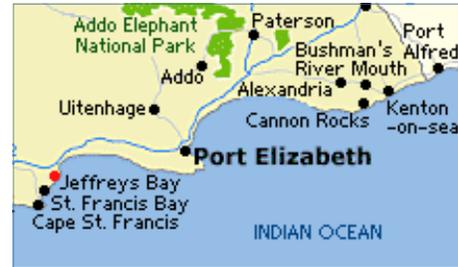
A surfer nearby started paddling towards Monk as he was pulled beneath the surface a second time. "I was holding on to my board but it was pulling me down on the right ankle" said Monk. "I went under the water. I was scared I was going to drown. It pulled me about half a metre down...I kicked down with my other foot. Then a (wave) hit us. After that it let me go. My board slipped away from me because my leash was bitten in half."

Monk raced out of the surf, clambered over the rocks and went up the boardwalk to his B&B accommodation – ironically owned by East Londoner Andrew Carter, who was attacked by a white shark at Nahoon Reef in 1994.

**INJURY:** The surfer's right foot was injured. He sustained five puncture wounds to the dorsum of the foot and two to the sole.

**FIRST AID/ TREATMENT:** He was treated at Humansdorp Hospital and released.

**SPECIES INVOLVED:** The incident involved a raggedtooth shark, about 1,5 to 2 metres in length.



*Wayne Monk and his wife, Sue, are all smiles after the incident.*

Picture by Alan Eason

**COMMENT:** When Wayne Monk was a 14-year-old, he had a brush with a shark (See: *GSAF 1984.11.08*)

**SOURCES:** W. Steenkamp, Cape Times, October 9, 2004;  
Sunday Argus, October 10, 2004;  
Daily Dispatch, <http://www.dispatch.co.za/2004/10/11/Easterncape/ashark.html>