

ACTIVITY: Chumming for white sharks

CASE: [GSAF 2004.10.30.a](#)

DATE: Saturday October 30, 2004

LOCATION: The incident took place in an area known as "Joubert se Dam" by fishermen and shark viewing operators as a good place to find white sharks during the South African summer months. It is located between Kleinbaai Harbour and Pearly Beach in the Western Cape Province, South Africa.



Marine Dynamics boat

© Marine Dynamics

NAME: André Hartman

DESCRIPTION: He is a 52-year-old male, 6'3" tall, and was wearing a blue T-shirt, navy-blue foul weather pants and he was barefoot. André has been diving for about 30 years and is a qualified commercial diver, a professional salvage diver, a champion freediving spearfisherman, and a world-famous shark expert and cage-dive operator. He had a stroke in January 2004 that affected his right leg, preventing him from moving as fast as in the past.

BOAT: Marine Dynamics uses an eight-metre x three-metre catamaran.



André Hartman

Photo courtesy Die Burger

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: It was a beautiful sunny summer day. The air temperature was about 24°C with a light south easterly breeze.

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, October 28, 2004

SEA CONDITIONS: There was a moderate surface chop with a small swell, and the water temperature was about 14°C. Generally the water is dirty in this area, and underwater visibility is seldom more than two or three metres.

ENVIRONMENT: The white shark activity was good, with many sharks in the area. It was estimated between eight and 15 sharks were in the area on the day of the incident. For some reason not yet determined the sharks prefer this area to the reefs in the immediate vicinity of Dyer island during the summer. Typically, one can easily spend several days in the channel in summer and hardly catch a glimpse of a shark, whereas at Joubert se Dam it is possible to see five or six different white sharks in a day. This pattern changes again towards April, when the sharks are seen more often on the reefs closer to the island.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: One kilometre

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: 10 to 15 metres

TIME: Morning

NARRATIVE: André Hartman and Jean Pierre 'JP' Botha were taking clients from the Czech and Slovak republics for a dive with the sharks. Hartman was chumming for sharks, sitting astride the boat's engine with his foot dangling over the side of the boat, sometimes with his foot touching the water. "André watched a shark approach the boat and then swim away. He looked away for split-second as someone on the boat spoke to him," Botha said. "When he looked in the direction of the water again, he saw the shark going for his foot.

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After a stroke in January that affected his right leg, he couldn't move it as fast as he had to. For this reason he did not get his foot out of the water in time and got bitten by the shark," Botha said. Fortunately the lower jaw of the shark was prevented from snapping closed by the boat engine. A photographer Richard Jaronek, was taking photos right next to André. Richard took the shark by the nose and pulled its mouth open so that André could remove his foot without doing further damage. This all happened really fast. Everyone on the boat stayed calm during the incident."

INJURY: Widely-spaced lacerations to the ankle and shin and dorsum of the right foot. There were no injuries to the sole of the foot, however, a tooth of the shark punctured an artery and bleeding was profuse.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Direct pressure was applied to the wound, and the boat returned to Kleinbaai Harbour. From the time André was bitten to the time the divers were pulled out of the water and gear stowed on the boat was about 30 minutes. André remained sitting on the boat.

"Doctor Christo Barnard examined André on the boat about five minutes after reaching the harbour, and instructed that we bring André to the surgery so that he could stitch the wound. I took André in my car. The surgery is four kilometres from Kleinbaai. Andre insisted on having some liquid 'pain-killer' made from the distillate of plums, before going to the doctor.

"Dr Barnard put about 25 stitches in using local anaesthetic, but André felt some pain during this procedure. Afterwards, the doctor bandaged the foot, and I took André home. The wound had started to bleed again, mainly because he was sitting with his foot down in the car; secondly, he was trying to walk on the injured foot. When he was made to lie down on the couch with his foot elevated the bleeding stopped.

"The wound is healing well, without infection or complications. André was back at work on the boat within seven days of the incident." ...*J.P. Botha*

SPECIES INVOLVED: White shark, about two metres in length.

NOTE: This is Hartman's third incident: In 1974, his knee was bitten by a 1.5-metre raggedtooth shark (*GSAF 1974.04.20*), and in 1977 he had an encounter with a five-metre white shark (*GSAF 1977.10.30*).

CASE INVESTIGATOR: J. P. Botha, Marine Dynamics