

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: [GSAF 2007.11.07](#)

DATE: Wednesday November 7, 2007

LOCATION: The incident took place at a popular surfing spot known as Die Punt, Strand, Western Cape Province, South Africa.

NAME: Andrew Smith

DESCRIPTION: He is a 14-year-old male.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, November 10, 2007

TIME: 17h30



Francois Nel, Die Burger

Andrew Smith and his mother, Annedie, at Mediclinic Vergelegen.

NARRATIVE: Andrew Smith was lying on his surfboard 'quite far out to sea' when he felt something grab his feet. Then he saw the shark's 'massive head' as it tried to drag him off his board. "It was biting my feet and dragging me. I started kicking and managed to get free," he said. "I paddled a little and someone else helped me. I got on their back and they carried me to shore."

INJURY: Smith has a number of small lacerations and deep cuts to his feet, and two tendons in his left foot were severed. "He had hundreds of little lacerations and tooth marks on his feet and lower legs," said Jonathan Toogood, reconstructive plastic surgeon at Mediclinic Vergelegen.

DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT: His wetsuit has holes in it from the shark's teeth and Smith says the fin of his surfboard was bitten off.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Dr. Gavin Venter treated Smith at the scene and took him to hospital.

SPECIES: "I saw the shark's head. The whole thing was as big as my father," said Andrew. The surfer believed the incident involved a shark between 1.5 and two metres in length. Spokesman for the City of Cape Town's White Shark Working Group (WSWG) Gregg Oelofse said initial investigations of the bite marks indicated that the shark which bit the teen was a two-metre white shark.

NOTE: In hospital next day Andrew had a surprise visit from Sergio Capri who was bitten by a white shark at Koeel Bay eight years ago and had recuperated in the same hospital bed and ward (GSAF 1999.07.28.a). Capri showed Smith the scars on his right leg and back where he had been bitten by a shark. "I suffered serious blood loss. I was hitting the shark while it was hanging onto my side. But you'll get back in the water quickly," he told Smith before giving him advice on how to care for his wounds. Smith, who had several surfing magazines on the table beside his bed, said he would go back into the sea when he had recovered. "I like surfing in Jeffrey's Bay and Elands Bay best. I will go back in the water

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again," he said.

SOURCES: Anton Ferreira, The Times (Cape Town), November 9, 2007,
<http://www.thetimes.co.za/News/Article.aspx?id=608977>

Cape Argus, November 8, 2007

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=14&art_id=vn20071109062137857C7070
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